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**Fun things
to do in
the snow**

Scene magazine

Snowkitter Mike Lance
catches wind

**Post office
keeping late
hours at Misawa**

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**Eyes on offense
for Sunday's
playoff matchups**

Pages 47, 48

Volume 63, No. 265 © SS 2005 J

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9, 2005

Colts quarterback Peyton Manning
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Japan official: Reduce troops, not security

Defense agency to push for less U.S. presence during Feb. talks

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**'We will conduct
operations
here as long
as it takes'**

- U.S. servicemembers in tsunami-ravaged areas will receive special pay
- 7,000 more dead found in Indonesia, pushing death toll to 147,000

Pages 3-4

Lt. Shawn Harris from San Diego, off USNS Shoup, carries an Indonesian boy to medical facilities at Banda Aceh's airport in Indonesia on Thursday as emergency relief operations continued for the tsunami victims.

AP

STARS & STRIPES

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Scene on Sunday

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Sunday

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TODAY IN STRIPES

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Spector shooting transcripts: Rock music producer Phil Spector initially told police he mistakenly shot actress Lana Clarkson, though he has since changed his story to suggest she committed suicide, according to newly released grand jury transcripts.

Alhambra, Calif., Police Officer Beatrice Rodriguez testified that Spector told officers at his home, "What's wrong with you guys? What are you doing? I didn't mean to shoot her. It was an accident."

Spector, 64, who created rock 'n' roll's "wall of sound" recording technique, is charged with murdering Clarkson at his Alhambra mansion in early 2003. He has pleaded not guilty and is free on \$1 million bail.

Blake trial: Robert Blake cried out and put his hands to his head when he was told his wife was dead, but a police detective testified the actor didn't shed any tears.

John Michael Coffey was the latest in a string of prosecution witnesses to question the sincerity of Blake's reactions on the night of May 4, 2001, when his wife, Bonnie Lee Blakey, was shot to death. "I noticed he didn't have any tears. It didn't seem to me to be a sincere cry," Coffey testified Thursday at Blake's murder trial.

Blake claims he and his wife went to his car on a nearby street after eating dinner at Vitello's restaurant, and he left her to return to the restaurant to retrieve his gun, which he had forgotten. He claims he found Blakey bleeding when he got back to the car.

Crematory case: A former crematory operator who admitted dumping 334 bodies and passing off cement dust as their ashes pleaded guilty Friday to Tennessee charges and was sentenced to 12 years in prison.

Ray Brent Marsh, 31, listened to a series of statements from Tennessee relatives of those whose bodies were mishandled at his Tri-State Crematory in Georgia and then apologized. Marsh could be eligible for parole in four years, Circuit Judge Carroll L. Ross said in handing down the sentence.

The sentencing was part of an agreement between officials in Tennessee and Georgia, where Marsh pleaded guilty in November to 787 counts of theft, abuse of a corpse, burial service fraud and making false statements.

San Diego mayor vote: Three voters asked a court Thursday to overturn the election of San Diego Mayor Dick Murphy and install a write-in candidate, saying more than 5,000 ballots were unlawfully thrown out.

The voters filed a lawsuit alleging the coun-



JOHN L. BEEMAN/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Grand opening: A ribbon-cutting ceremony on Thursday officially opened a new Subway sandwich shop in the Main Street Food Court at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan. From left: Wendy Buzman as the Subway mascot; Capt. King Dietrich, Commander, Fleet Activities Yokosuka; Leslie Morales, food service supervisor for the store; Louis Schelp, Japan district food service manager; Vincent Brown, food service manager for Main Street Food Court; and Johnnie Fong, Subway Investments Corporation development agent.

ty registrar violated state election law by disqualifying ballots on which voters wrote the name of candidate Donna Frye but failed to darken an adjoining oval.

Aaliyah crash: Aaliyah's record company cannot sue the video producer that arranged the airplane flight on which the singer and eight others crashed and died in the Bahamas in 2001, a Manhattan appeals court ruled Thursday.

The state Supreme Court's Appellate Division dismissed the lawsuit brought by Blackground Records, which the singer partly owned, saying that in this case only the singer's parents had a right to sue for her wrongful death. The court said the parents did so and were compensated.

Aaliyah had just finished shooting a music video when she and eight others were killed in the crash of a twin-engine Cessna as it left Marsh Harbor on Abaco Island in the Bahamas en route to Florida on Aug. 25, 2001. She was 22.

World

Mandela's son: Former President Nelson Mandela, a leading AIDS campaigner, won local and international praise Friday for disclosing that his son died of the disease.

The U.N. AIDS agency said Mandela's decision Thursday was an example of his un-

wavering leadership in the fight against stigma and discrimination associated with HIV. Makgatho Mandela, who had been the former president's only surviving son, died Thursday at age 54.

Military

Drowning case: An Army sergeant was within his rights as a platoon leader when he ordered his troops to force two Iraqi insurgents into the Tigris River for violating curfew, his attorney said during closing arguments in Fort Hood, Texas.

Army Sgt. 1st Class Tracy Perkins, accused in the alleged drowning death of Zaidoun Fadel Hassoun, 19, is charged with involuntary manslaughter, aggravated assault, obstruction of justice and making a false statement.

Jury seated in abuse case: A 10-man jury in Texas was seated Friday for the military trial of the soldier prosecutors call the ring-leader of the prisoner abuse at the Abu Ghraib prison.

Opening statements begin Monday in the court-martial of Spc. Charles Graner of Uniontown, Pa., the first soldier to be tried in the case.

Stories from wire services

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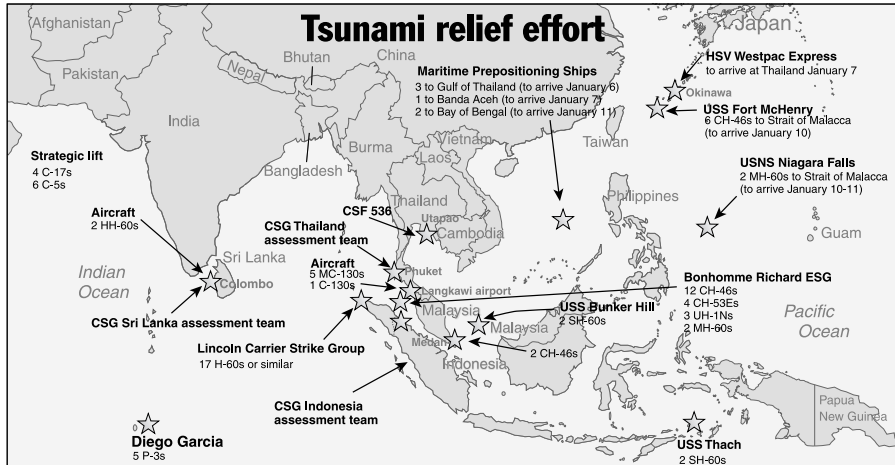
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Tsunami relief effort



Help from far and wide

There are 13,435 U.S. Navy, Marine, Army, Air Force and Coast Guard servicemen involved in providing relief support to countries hardest hit by recent tsunamis. The breakdown:

Currently on Ground: (Total = 1,428)

Thailand: 1,001

Sri Lanka: 171

Indonesia: 149

Malaysia: 107

Currently Afloat: 12,007

Explanation of terminology

ESG: Expeditionary Strike Group

CSG: Combined Support Group (not to be confused with a Carrier Strike Group such as the Lincoln group)

CSF: Combined Support Force

HSV: High-Speed Vessel



Gabriel Wilson/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy
The USS Abraham Lincoln joined the relief effort soon after the Dec. 26 earthquake and tsunami.

Source: Pacific Command

SIGFRED BRUNER/Stars and Stripes

Relief troops may be gone up to 90 days

BY DAVID ALLEN

Stars and Stripes

CAMP COURTNEY, Okinawa — Okinawa-based Marines and sailors deployed to Indonesia for tsunami relief could be gone as long as three months, Marine officials said Thursday night.

During a briefing held by the 3rd Marine Division in the Courtney Chapel, spouses and family members of the 600 Marines and sailors from the division who deployed last week were told to expect the deployment to last 45 to 90 days.

Officials said they did not know whether additional personnel will be deployed during the relief efforts.

"We're going to be flexible," said Lt. Col. Russell Scott, executive officer for the division's Headquarters Battalion. "We may be able to handle what is needed with the 600 Marines and sailors already down here. What will eventually be needed, as far as manpower, will be determined by Gen. Crowder and his team of planners."

The 3rd Marine Division has been given the task of handling the relief efforts in Indonesia, the country hit worst by the 9.0-magnitude earthquake and resulting tsunamis on Dec. 26. The U.S. military contingent in that nation has been dubbed Combined Support Group-Indonesia (CSG-I) and is led by Brig. Gen. Christian B. Crowder, commanding general of the 3rd Marine Division.

"We're there to support the Indonesian government with whatever is needed," Scott told the more than 100 people who attended the briefing. "We don't know how long this deployment may be."

The initial planning called for 45 days of intensive assistance, with long-range planning for 90 days, Scott said.

"All services will be turned over to strictly Indonesian control as soon as possible," he said. "How long this will take — we just don't know. It's hard to comprehend the suffering endured by so many."

SEE BRIEFING ON PAGE 4

Military evaluating long-range goals

BY LISA BURGESS

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — With emergency aid to tsunami victims largely in place, U.S. commanders will spend the next several days planning their long-range goals, according to the leader of the military's relief effort.

"We are at a point, I believe, where we are able now to see the top of the crisis curve," Marine Lt. Gen. Robert R. Blackman told Pentagon reporters Friday.

Speaking by telephone from Utopia, Thailand, where his Combined Support Force 536 is headquartered, Blackman said that "the priority over the next 96 hours is to determine what our sustained requirements will be for this disaster relief on each of the three countries where we are focusing our efforts." — Thailand, Sri Lanka, and Indonesia.

However, it is still too early to

get a sense of how long it will take before the U.S. military can consider drawing back any of the personnel or capabilities tapped for the relief efforts, Blackman said.

"We will conduct operations here as long as it takes in order to accomplish our mission of minimizing further loss of life and mitigating human suffering," Blackwell said. "We will not stay any longer than necessary."

Now the U.S. military's job is to figure out how best to support the countries most hard-hit by the Dec. 26 earthquake and subsequent tsunamis in the longer term, Blackman said.

"The challenge now that we're able to better see the top of the curve," Blackman said, "is to match up our existing capabilities here in each of these unique locations."

Only once the individual nations, the United Nations, and international aid agencies "are in a position to sustain the necessary

relief" will Blackman "make the recommendation that we begin to incrementally reduce our [military] capabilities" in the effort.

And that timetable, Blackman said, "will be different in each [country] of Thailand, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka."

U.S. forces can expect to be involved in the tsunami relief efforts "for some time," Blackman said.

For example, the USNS Mercy hospital ship, which was dispatched to the region earlier this week, will not even arrive on-station for another 30 days, Blackwell confirmed.

With more than 13,000 U.S. military personnel now in the region and working to relieve devastation and human suffering on a "truly historic ... scale," U.S. military commanders are offering those servicemen's mental health counseling "earlier, rather than later," Blackman said.

E-mail Lisa Burgess at: burgessl@stripes.osd.mil

Briefing: Families brought to speed on deployment

BRIEFING, FROM PAGE 3

He said Cowdrey set up headquarters for CSG-1 in the city of Medan on the northeast coast of the island of Sumatra and a forward post was established in the ravaged city of Banda Aceh.

"Eventually we hope to establish an airport on the west coast at the city of Meulaboh — we have an aerial assessment team on the scene," Scott said. "But the area is very devastated and the airstrips do not look like they are in very good repair and we may have to look at an island just north of Banda Aceh instead."

He said that two days after the earthquake and tsunamis, an aircraft flew over Meulaboh, a town of 50,000 people. "They counted maybe 40 people on the ground," he said.

Cowdrey's wife, Donna, the division key volunteer adviser, gave the crowd a briefing about what to expect while their spouses are away.

"The brief is to relieve your stress and give you the knowledge as best we can about what is happening in Indonesia," she said. "It's a fact of life that we have to deal with deployments. But I want to personally reassure you they're in a good spot, they found an excellent spot to set up in Medan and they have good food, good living conditions and are well taken care of."

She said the quick deployment was a good case study in why spouses should have a family care plan, especially powers of attorney, in place so they can take care of family matters while their partner is away.

She advised those in the audience to look at the deployment as an opportunity for self-growth as they take on extra responsibilities.

"Look at the self-confidence you can gain," she said. "You'll learn new skills and find new sources of strength within yourself."

Like Scott, Cowdrey said it was an open-ended deployment.

"We can't be sure when it will end," she said. "We hope it will be sooner than later, but we just have to be patient."

She cautioned the crowd not to listen to rumors concerning the deployments.

If there is a plus to the deployments, it's the extra money the servicemembers will be paid while away. According to the briefing, each Marine and sailor will receive an extra \$100 a month for hardship duty pay, \$250 a month for family separation allowance, \$225 imminent danger pay and a per diem that fluctuates depending on where he or she is deployed.

However, Indonesia is not a tax exclusion zone, an officer at the briefing cautioned. Serving in a tax exclusion zone means that some, if not all, of the income earned by a servicemember while in that area is not counted as gross income for tax purposes.

For further information about the humanitarian relief effort and family readiness, the division has set up a Web site at: www.3div.usmc.mil/familyreadiness/index.htm.

E-mail David Allen at: allen@psripes.osd.mil



U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan boards his plane at Banda Aceh airport shortly after visiting the tsunami-ravaged town of Meulaboh on Friday in northwest Indonesia. Annan was assessing the damage brought by the tsunami disaster Dec. 26.

AP

Annan says devastation on Sumatra worst he has seen

7,000 more dead in Indonesia raises toll to 147,000

BY CHRIS BRUMMITT

The Associated Press

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia — U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan described the devastation on tsunami-battered Sumatra island Friday as the worst he's ever seen, and authorities raised Indonesia's death toll by 7,000, bringing the overall toll killed by the disaster to more than 147,000.

Twelve days after the tsunami hit, Annan and World Bank President James Wolfensohn flew over the island's west coast and later drove around the shattered coastal town of Meulaboh, where families picked through piles of rubble six feet high.

"I have never seen such utter destruction mile after mile," a shaken Annan told reporters. "You wonder where are the people? What has happened to them?"

Hardest hit was Sumatra, which was closest to the epicen-

ter of the 9.0 magnitude quake, and where officials on Friday counted about 7,000 additional bodies — mostly in Meulaboh, which had been cut off by washed-out roads — raising Indonesia's toll to 101,318.

India's death toll also rose to 10,001 Friday after officials reported recovery of 301 bodies in the isolated Andaman and Nicobar islands and nine others on India's southern coast.

That raised the overall death toll from the Dec. 26 earthquake and tsunami to 147,841.

British Foreign Secretary Jack

Straw, who toured the Thai holiday destination of Phuket on Friday, also said that 391 missing Britons likely were dead. Forty-nine Britons have been confirmed dead.

Indonesian military spokesman Ahmad Yani Basuki said the sharp increase largely was due to volunteers helping to recover bodies.

"There was an incredible spike in the death toll," Basuki said.

"A good deal of it was from Meulaboh."

With tens of thousands still missing and threatened by disease from the powerful waves that hit 11 nations, the United Nations said the death toll would keep climbing.

"I think we have to be aware that very, very many of the victims have been swept away and many, many will not reappear," U.N. humanitarian chief Jan Egeland said in New York. "The 150,000 dead figure is a very low figure. It will be much bigger."

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Fussa Gate

Term Gate

Official says Army could extend reservists' tours

By ROBERT BURNS

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Stretched thin by the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the U.S. Army is considering a National Guard and Reserve policy shift that could result in part-timers being called to active duty multiple times for up to two years each time, a senior Army official said.

The official, who discussed the matter with a small group of reporters on condition of anonymity because the matter has not been fully settled inside the Pentagon, said Thursday the Army probably will ask Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld in the next several months to change the policy.

The official also said it appeared likely that the Army will ask Congress to permanently increase the statutory size of the Army by 30,000 soldiers, to 512,000. He said that decision would be made next year.

The Army has the authority to add 30,000 soldiers, but arranged for it to be only a temporary boost because it did not want a long-term commitment to the cost of a larger force. But now it appears that the Army has no choice but to accept a permanent increase, the official said.

The Army estimates that a permanent increase of 30,000 soldiers will cost it about \$3 billion a year.

One reason that the National Guard and Reserve have been used so heavily over the past three years is that the active-duty Army is too small to meet the demands of war — particularly in Iraq, where troop levels have far exceeded original predictions — while also maintaining a presence in traditional areas of influence such as Europe, Japan and the Korean peninsula.

The Army now has about 660,000 troops on active duty, of which about 160,000 are members of the Guard and Reserve.

The Army wants them to be eligible for an unlimited number of call-ups, so long as no single mobilization lasts more than 24 months, the official said.

Under current policy set by Rumsfeld, a Guard or Reserve member is not to serve on active duty for more than 24 total months. Thus, for example, if a Guard or Reserve member was mobilized for six months after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, and later for nine months in Afghanistan, then that person is off limits for duty in Iraq because a yearlong tour there would exceed the 24-month limit.

A standard tour in Iraq, for both active-duty troops and reserves, is 12 months.

If the limit were set at 24 consecutive months, with some break between tours, then in theory a Guard or Reserve member could be mobilized for multiple 12- or 24-month tours in Iraq or elsewhere.

MILITARY UPDATE

Tom Philpott

DOD still awaiting word on 'concurrent receipt'

Defense officials, as of Thursday, were still awaiting word from the White House's Office of Management and Budget on whether to pay accelerated Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay (CRDP) to 28,000 retirees rated "unemployable" by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

For decades, military retirees who accepted VA disability compensation have seen taxable retired pay reduced by a matching amount. Congress, in recent years, began to relax this ban on "concurrent receipt" for retirees who served full careers and had combat-related injuries or severe disabilities.

In December 2003, lawmakers approved a 10-year, phase-in plan of full retired pay, in the form of CRDP, for those with disabilities of 50 percent or more. Last October, lawmakers

voted to accelerate the schedule for 100-percent disabled, fully restoring their retired pay effective Jan. 1.

Since then, the Bush administration has been studying whether accelerated CRDP must be paid to retirees with disabilities rated below 100 percent if they draw VA compensation at the 100 percent level because their wounds or ailments are so serious they are deemed unemployable.

Pentagon lawyers believe they must include it. But Defense officials awaited a final OK from OMB before making an announcement and ordering finance centers to increase CRDP sharply for 28,000 retirees. The higher payments, if and when they begin, will be retroactive to Jan. 1, 2005.

To comment, write Military Update, P.O. Box 21111, Centerville, VA 20120-1111, e-mail milupdate@aol.com or visit www.militaryupdate.com



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New NCO group opens with call to donate for Iraq

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN

Stars and Stripes

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — In the midst of tsunami relief, not to be forgotten are the needy in Iraq.

A group of individuals hoping to form the first chartered Noncommissioned Officers Association, or NCOA in Pacific Air Forces plan to kick off an Iraq charity drive Monday.

"It's for Iraqi people in general. We're looking for clothes, toys, any school supplies that people are willing to donate — used or

new, as long as it's in good condition," said Staff Sgt. Larry Behrens, a 35th Civil Engineer Squadron firefighter and the group's acting president.

Boxes for donations will be placed at the post office, base exchange main entrance and the chapel starting Monday. Collections will be taken through Jan. 17.

Chief Master Sgt. Allen Thomas, NCOA trustee and superintendent of 35th Communications Squadron, said this is a good time to clean out the closet and give away clothes that don't fit or aren't wanted.

"If you want to put some soccer balls or something like that in there for the kids, that's fine as well," he said.

Contributions will be sent to Iraq via Military Postal Service.

The charity drive is the first NCOA event at Misawa. The group formed in December — the idea of deployed president Senior Master Sgt. Scott Ashton, said Behrens — and has about 17 people who participate, though not all are paying members. To form a charter, 15 members must pay annual dues ranging from \$20 to \$30, depending on rank.

Behrens noted that NCOA is open to all enlisted members — including E-1 to E-3 — regardless of service. It's also open to military spouses.

"It's really the joint services getting together," he said.

A national organization with chapters around the world, NCOA was established in 1960 to enhance and maintain quality of life for noncommissioned and petty officers in all branches of the Armed Forces, National Guard and Reserve, according to its Web site, www.ncoas.org.

Behrens said although NCOA

carries some of the same responsibilities as the Air Force First Sergeants Association, "we're not trying to mimic them," he said. The Misawa NCOA chapter will seek its own niche in the Misawa community, he said.

"We're going to try and get involved with the Japanese people," he said. "We are accepting people who want to participate and just learn what it's about" without paying dues.

Call DSN 226-3231 for more information about NCOA or the group's Iraq charity drive.

E-mail Jennifer H. Svan at: svan@spstrides.osd.mil



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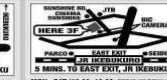
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General warns of 'spectacular' Iraq attacks

Sunni religious leaders demand vote be delayed

BY NICK WADHAM

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A top U.S. military official said Friday he expects that insurgents may try to carry out "spectacular" attacks as the Iraqi election draws near, while Sunni religious leaders called for unity but persisted in their demands that the vote be delayed.

The comments by U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Erv Lessel echoed a warning by Iraq's prime minister the day before that insurgent violence would only increase ahead of the Jan. 30 election for a National Assembly.

Hours after Interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi spoke, a roadside bomb killed seven U.S. soldiers in northwest Baghdad on Thursday, the deadliest attack on American forces since a suicide strike in Mosul more than two weeks ago. Two Marines also were killed in western Iraq.

A state of emergency, originally announced two months ago, also was extended Thursday for 30 days throughout the country except for the northern Kurdish-run areas. The decree includes a nighttime curfew and gives the government additional power to make arrests and launch military or police operations.

Lessel, deputy chief of staff for strategic communications for U.S.-led forces in Iraq, said the United States has no intelligence indicating specific plans for a major attack but is a concern.

He said the insurgents' biggest weapon was their ability to instill fear.

"I think a worst case is where they have a series of horrific attacks that cause mass casualties in some spectacular fashion in the days leading up to the elections," Lessel said. "If you look

over the last six months they have steadily escalated the barbaric nature of the attacks they have been committing. A year ago you didn't see these kinds of horrific things."

The soldiers with Task Force Baghdad were on patrol Thursday evening when their Bradley fighting vehicle hit the explosive, the U.S. military said in a statement. Everyone inside the Bradley was killed.

The two U.S. Marines killed in action Thursday were members of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force and lost their lives in Anbar province, which is home to the volatile city of Fallujah.

In the village of Naimiyah, hundreds of refugees from the destroyed nearby city of Fallujah demonstrated after Friday's prayers, demanding that U.S. and Iraqi forces leave the city, open all the roads for residents to go back and pay compensation for damaged property.

The previous four days had seen a string of assassinations, suicide car bombings and other assaults that killed 90 people.

But Thursday's toll was the highest for the U.S. military in Iraq since a suicide bombing at a mess tent in Mosul on Dec. 21 killed 22 people, including 14 U.S. soldiers and three American contractors.

The latest deaths brought the number of U.S. troops killed since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003 to 1,350, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,063 died as a result of hostile action.

Allawi said he expected the number of attacks would rise before the Jan. 30 vote and called the decision on prolonging the state of emergency a precaution. He blamed former members of Saddam Hussein's Sunni-dominated regime for the continuing violence.

"Saddam's followers, who

have intensely shed the blood of our people and army, are still in action clandestinely, allying with a bunch of criminals, murderers and terrorists who are the enemies of our people and our progress," Allawi said Thursday during a ceremony to mark the national Army Day holiday.

President Bush's administration and Allawi, a secular Shiite, have insisted that the elections go forward, despite calls from some Sunni religious leaders for a boycott.

Sunni Arab political parties largely withdrawn from the race because of security fears, particularly in western Iraq. Some have sought a delay of the vote.

During Friday prayers, Sheikh Mahmoud Al-Somaidie of the Sunnis' Association of Muslim Scholars called for unity among Muslims but repeated Sunnis' demand that the vote be delayed.

"Brothers, be aware of those who using the elections issue to flare a sectarian war, there is only one country, only one Iraq, and we are all brothers in this country," he said. "Elections have to be an Iraqi demand not the demand of the foreign countries."



Electrons official Salim al Taki looks at the burned remains in his office in southern Iraqi city of Basra on Thursday.

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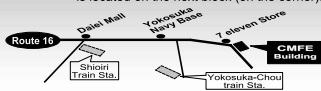
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IN THE WORLD

Japan: Reduce U.S. troops, not security

BY VINCE LITTLE
AND HANA KUSUMOTO

Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — Japan wants the U.S. military presence on Okinawa reduced — but not at the expense of the American role as a deterrent power here, the nation's top defense official told a news conference Friday.

Yoshinori Ohno, Japan's minister of State for Defense, said those are the key requests being pushed by Japan in the ongoing discussions over the potential realignment of U.S. forces. He's hoping to advance that agenda next month during the proposed "two-plus-two" talks, in which he and Japanese Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura would sit down with U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice — the nominee to replace Secretary of State Colin Powell.

"We have to discuss the security circumstances surrounding Japan," Ohno said at

the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan. "We have common views. We need to talk about the roles and missions to be shared by the two countries."

Over the past two years, the United States and Japan have met routinely, floating different ideas about the potential reorganization and realignment of U.S. forces in Japan. Neither side has announced a firm date for the anticipated ministerial discussions.

According to media reports, a central theme in the military realignment talks focuses on whether Japan will accept a U.S. proposal to relocate the U.S. Army's 1st Corps headquarters in Washington state to Camp Zama.

Ohno, who became Japan's defense chief last September, declined to establish a decision deadline or discuss what changes might be instituted.

"There are key points to examine," he said. "We must reach a conclusion on facilities

and areas in Japan. But it's under negotiation."

Easing the burden of the U.S. military footprint on Okinawa is a top priority, he said. Right now, 75 percent of the facilities in Japan operated by American forces sit on the island.

The U.S. forces' enhancement to Japan's security level, however, should be maintained, Ohno said.

"We are asking the U.S. government to observe these two principles," he said. "The deterrent capability of U.S. forces in Japan should stay the same."

Ohno said he also plans to tackle other issues this year.

Given the changing international security environment, he hopes to make peacekeeping operations a primary function of Japan's Self-Defense Forces — instead of the subordinate role it now plays.

Japan's new defense guidelines, unveiled Dec. 10, illustrate Tokyo's desire to place the JSDF in a larger international

role. But it's crucial to "maintain civilian control," Ohno said.

Turning the defense agency into a ministry also is a top objective, he added.

"Agency" sounds like an administrative organization engaged in [a] practical and businesslike field," he said.

The agency currently falls under the control of Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, but if upgraded to a ministry, defense officials will be able to bring up issues at cabinet meetings and request a separate budget.

Ohno has said he also plans to establish simplified procedures for dealing with potential missile attacks from neighboring countries. With nations such as North Korea in possession of weapons that can reach Japan in 10-12 minutes, he said, there needs to be a faster response.

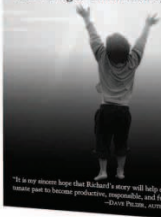
"We must establish a decision-making process for when a missile comes to Japan," he said.

E-mail Vince Little at: little@pstrips.com

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North Korea dismisses relevance of U.S. delegation's impending visit

The Associated Press

SEOUL — North Korea said Friday it attached little significance to the planned visit next week by members of Congress and accused Washington of plotting to topple Pyongyang's communist regime.

A bipartisan congressional delegation is scheduled to visit North Korea next week, where a key topic of discussion likely will be the stalled six-nation talks on the North's nuclear programs.

In a commentary posted Friday on Uriminzokkiri.com, a North Korean government-run Web site, the regime said it was "seriously upset" because the United States was spreading a theory of a North Korean collapse.

"The United States is hiding a dagger while talking about 'six-party talks' and the dispatch

of a congressional delegation.' We cannot help boosting our vigilance at this flagrant, sinister, two-faced attitude," it said.

"All conferences and talks are meaningless as long as the United States does not abandon its hostile policy," it added.

The commentary didn't make clear whether Pyongyang will scuttle the congressional trip.

The delegation, which leaves the United States on Sunday, is scheduled to meet with high-ranking government officials and visit schools, shopping centers and other community areas in Pyongyang.

Rep. Curt Weldon, R-Pa., is coordinating the trip. He led a similar delegation to Pyongyang in May 2003.

Weldon said the visit to Pyongyang will be part of an effort to keep dialogue open between the United States and North Korea.



Rep. Curt Weldon

Abbas says if he is elected Qureia will stay as premier

The Associated Press

RAMALLAH, West Bank — Interim Palestinian

leader Mahmoud Abbas said Friday that if he wins Sunday's election for the head of the Palestinian Authority, he will ask Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia to stay on in his post.

Abbas, the overwhelming front-runner in the race, also said he was committed to unifying the various Palestinian security services, a key Israeli demand to move forward with the U.S.-backed "road map" peace plan.

"We believe that the unification of security services is necessary," he said.

Abbas promised to tackle illegal weapons, though he declined to call for a crack down on militant groups, another Israeli demand.



Abbas

"When I see you in the street carrying a handgun or a machine gun I want to ask if this machine gun is legitimate, if it is licensed, or not." If it is not, you will be punished according to the law."

Abbas spoke several hours after Palestinian gunmen from the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, a violent offshoot of his Fatah movement, attacked an Israeli vehicle near the West Bank city of Nablus, killing one of the occupants and wounding the other three.

"There is no justification for this operation, but there are a lot of reasons behind it," Abbas said.

Abbas' press conference was the last official campaign event before presidential elections on Sunday. Public opinion polls gave him an overwhelming lead over his closest rival.



Qureia



An Indian paramilitary personnel jumps out of the window of the income tax office building Friday after it was attacked and set ablaze by suspected militants in Srinagar, India. At least four people were killed and several civilians are suspected to be trapped inside.

4 killed in militant attack on Kashmir government office

The Associated Press

SRINAGAR, India — Militants stormed a government building in Indian-controlled Kashmir on Friday, setting it on fire with about 70 employees trapped inside, police said. At least four people, including two attackers, were killed.

Three militants made their way into the building housing the income tax office in Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu-Kashmir state, hurling a hand grenade that began the blaze, a police officer said on condition of anonymity.

A soldier, a civilian and two militants were killed, said K. Srinivasan, a senior officer of the paramilitary Border Security Force. Four soldiers were wounded.

Paramilitary soldiers surrounded the burning building and helped evacuate most of the civilians inside, he said. TV footage showed a stream of shaken employees clambering down from the second floor on ladders set up by rescue crews.

One of the employees evacuated, identified as Noor-ud-din, said two co-workers were still missing, Srinivasan said.

Militants holed up inside the building kept firing at soldiers outside, he said. Firefighters managed to extinguish the flames, which gutted the building's third floor, paramilitary spokesman Manoj Kumar said.

Train collision kills 14 in Italy

ROME — A passenger train and a freight train collided in thick fog Friday in northern Italy, killing 14 people and injuring 80 others, rescue officials said.

The crash, on a line between Bologna and Verona, left several train cars in a wreck of buckled metal. At least one carriage was lifted high into the air by the force of the collision.

The crash happened at 12:50 p.m. in a rural area of Bolognina di Crevalcore, 25 miles north of Bologna.

Workers pulled bodies from the wreckage and laid them in body bags in a misty field. Eight bodies had been recovered, according to police in the nearby town of San Giovanni in Persiceto, who were overseeing the efforts.

Man escapes boar in wild chase

WARSAW, Poland — A man escaped unscathed after a boar chased him around a hospital parking lot in southwestern Poland, the hospital spokesman said Thursday.

Cameras monitoring hospital grounds in the city of Legnica captured a boar who approached the hospital's main entrance and then crossed the path of an unidentified man before dawn on Wednesday. When the man tried to flee, the boar pursued him around a parked car for a few minutes until it appar-

ently got bored, Rafal Pilch told The Associated Press.

"The man was taken by surprise and after a moment of consternation started to run," Pilch said. "The boar ran after him and chased him for a few minutes around a parked car and then left."

The man did not need hospital treatment.

Pilch said he did not know where the boar came from, but it could have been one of two tame boars owned by a nearby inn specializing in traditional Polish cuisine.

Man gets prison for bad baby formula

BEIJING — A Chinese man was sentenced to seven years in jail for making a baby formula so low in nutritional value it killed one baby and permanently injured two others, the government said Friday.

The sentence handed down to Chi Changban was lenient because he surrendered himself to authorities and helped them with their investigation, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

At least 12 infants died last year from malnutrition after drinking phony formula in and around Fuyang, a city in the eastern province of Anhui. More than 200 babies suffered wasted limbs and swollen heads — common symptoms of malnutrition.

An investigation later found widespread milk powder counterfeiting in the province.

From The Associated Press



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CIA probe faults Tenet, deputy for intel failings

BY GREG MILLER
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — A classified internal CIA investigation singles out former CIA director George Tenet and the former head of the agency's clandestine service for failing to devote adequate resources to fighting the terrorist threat before the Sept. 11 attacks, according to intelligence officials who have read the report.

The report by the CIA's Inspector General's Office lays significant blame at the feet of Tenet but goes further in its criticism of James Pavitt, the former deputy director of operations, recommending that the agency con-

vene a special panel to determine whether Pavitt should be sanctioned.

The report and its recommendations represent the first time that the CIA has moved to hold any of its employees or senior officers accountable for failures surrounding the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

Tenet and Pavitt both left the agency last summer. Pavitt and a

spokesman for Tenet denounced the report and rejected its conclusions, saying the two intelligence officials had fought vigorously throughout their tenures to secure more resources to fighting terrorism.

On Dec. 14, President Bush awarded Tenet the Presidential Medal of Freedom, calling him "one of the first to recognize and address the growing threat to America from radical terrorist networks."

Tenet's spokesman, Bill Harlow, called the criticism of the former CIA director "absurd."

"No one in the U.S. government was more aggressive in calling attention to and dealing with the threat of terrorism prior to

9/11 than was George Tenet," Harlow said in an e-mail to the Los Angeles Times. "He is confident that a fair reading of his record during this period would show that senior CIA officials were the most aggressive, resourceful and committed U.S. combatants in the war on terror at the time."

Pavitt, in a telephone interview, called the report "offensive."

"The basic criticism is that it was a failure on my part and others to get appropriate resources to those parts of the organization that needed them," Pavitt said.

"I don't think it is an accurate portrayal of what the facts were at the time," Pavitt said. "Claim-

ing George and I or others didn't put resources in the right place — they can make the claim, make the charge and try to substantiate it. But the fact is nobody pled more forcefully for dollars than I did."

A CIA spokesman declined to comment on the report, which is still considered to be in draft form.

The investigation, by CIA Inspector General John Helgeson, was conducted in response to a request in December 2002 from a joint congressional inquiry that the CIA determine whether and to what extent its employees were at fault for a series of breakdowns in the months before the terrorist strikes.

Bush meets with tax panel

BY JENNIFER LOVEN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush on Friday called streamlining and reforming the U.S. tax code an "essential task for our country," but offered few hints of how he intends to get it done.

Treasury Secretary John Snow said "everything's on the table," including possibly the popular home mortgage and charitable deductions and a former senator leading a tax-reform panel for Bush that a national sales tax or flat tax also could be in the cards.

"I am firm in my desire to get something done," Bush said at the end of a White House meeting with former Sens. Connie Mack, R-Fla., and John Breaux, D-La., the leaders of a nine-member panel the president appointed Friday to recommend reforms to the tax code.

"A simple code will make it easier on the taxpayers," Bush said. "But it's an important task in order to make sure the economic growth we are seeing in the United States continues forward. ... It seems like to me the tax code today discourages economic vitality and growth when you spend billions of hours filing out the forms."

Snow, talking to reporters later outside the White House, said the panel has been ordered "to take a hard look at everything."

Asked if the panel includes the home mortgage and charitable deductions that millions of Americans use to reduce their federal tax liabilities, Snow gave no solid assurance that either would be kept.

The panel is to deliver its report to the Treasury Department by July 31.

Miss Beazley steals limelight



President Bush's dog Barney, left, checks out the newest addition at the White House, Miss Beazley, a Scottish terrier, on the South Lawn of the White House. The puppy was a birthday gift from the president to first lady Laura Bush.

Yates unlikely to be freed despite ruling

BY MICHAEL GRACZYK
The Associated Press

HOUSTON — The mother whose convictions in her children's drownings were tossed over false witness testimony is unlikely to see freedom soon, her lawyers said. The expert witness, meanwhile, said Friday he made an honest mistake and contended he got the erroneous information during a "passing conversation" with prosecutors.

Defense attorney George Parnham said he had no plans to seek Andrea Yates' release from state prison.

A state appeals court on Thursday determined that the false tes-

timony from forensic psychiatrist Paul Dietz led to her improper conviction in three of the five children's drownings in 2001.

During trial, Dietz, a consultant for the television program "Law & Order," described what he saw was a show about a woman found innocent by reason of insanity for drowning her children. The three-judge appellate panel said prosecutors "connected the dots" with Yates' testimony to convince jurors that Yates patterned her actions after the episode, which turned out not to exist.

Dietz told "Good Morning America" on Friday said he got confused because prosecutors had told him there was a "Law & Order" episode with that plot.

Specter: Gonzales will get Senate OK

BY MARK SHERMAN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee said Friday he feels certain that Alberto Gonzales will be confirmed as attorney general despite concerns about his role in a Bush administration legal doctrine that critics said undermined prisoner-of-war protections and a law against torture.

Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Arlen Specter said the nominee's defense of his role in revising torture policy was "not entirely satisfactory" but predicted that would not derail his confirmation. "It's my sense that he'll have an overwhelming vote," Specter, a Republican, told NBC's "Today" show.

A committee Democrat, who said his own vote was still undecided, agreed with that prediction.

"There's a lower standard, frankly, for attorney general than for judge, because you give the president who he wants," said Sen. Charles Schumer, a Democrat who was also appearing on "Today."

Through more than seven hours of testimony Thursday, Gonzales denied that his advice to President Bush led to abuse of prisoners in U.S. custody, and he condemned torture as an interrogation tactic.

Gonzales betrayed little emotion and at times gave lawyerly answers to pointed questions from senators. He did little to satisfy critics from human rights groups and in Congress, but neither did he say anything at his confirmation hearing that might damage his prospects of becoming the nation's first Hispanic attorney general.

Gonzales said his friendship with the president, whom he serves as White House counsel, would not affect his performance as attorney general.

Specter said the Republican-led Senate could vote to confirm the

49-year-old Texan as John Ashcroft's replacement before Bush begins his second term on Jan. 20. Committee Democrats addressed Gonzales as though his confirmation was all but assured.

Gonzales denied that any of the memos he wrote or reviewed in the White House had anything to do with the abuse.

"Would you not concede that your decision and the decision of the president to call into question the definition of torture, the need to comply with the Geneva Conventions, at least opened up a permissive environment of conduct?" asked Richard Durbin of Illinois, the Senate's No. 2 Democrat.

Gonzales said he was sickened and outraged by photos of abuse at Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison. He described the U.S. troops in those photos as "people who were morally bankrupt having fun." Other abuses of foreign detainees probably occurred because "there wasn't adequate training, there wasn't adequate supervision," he said.

Much of the discussion focused on two memos. One, written by Gonzales in January 2002, asserted that terrorists captured overseas by Americans do not merit the protections of the Geneva Conventions. The other, addressed to him in August 2002, argued for a narrow definition of torture as "excruciating and agonizing pain."

Gonzales acknowledged he took part in meetings about the August 2002 torture memo, although he was careful to avoid taking responsibility for ordering it. The memo from a Justice Department official begins, "You have asked for our office's view."

Asked if he requested the memo, Gonzales replied, "I don't recall if it was requested by me." Those kinds of answers led Sen. Joe Biden, a Democrat, to complain: "We're looking for candor, old buddy. I love you, but you're not very candid so far."

Reputed Klan member pleads not guilty in 1964 Miss. slayings

BY SHELIA BYRD
The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA, Miss. — Reputed Ku Klux Klan member Edgar Ray Killen responded loudly with "not guilty" three times Friday as he was arraigned on murder charges in the slayings of three civil rights workers more than 40 years ago. The prosecutor said he was the only person indicted in the case.

Killen, handcuffed and dressed in a loosely fitting orange jail jumpsuit, lowered his voice when asked if he could afford an attorney. He was then led off to the Neshoba County Jail pending another hearing Wednesday. He was ordered held without bond until then.

Killen, 79, was arrested Thursday in the 1964 shooting deaths of James Chaney, a 21-year-old black Mississippi, and two white New Yorkers, Andrew Goodman, 20, and Michael Schwerner, 24. It was the first time the state has sought criminal charges in the case that outraged a nation.

At the hearing, the suspect told Circuit Judge Marcus Gordon he couldn't afford a lawyer but did own some land. Gordon said he would decide later whether he would appoint an attorney.

Soon after Killen's arraignment, the courthouse was cleared by au-

thorities who said they had received a bomb threat. Nothing suspicious was found, they said later.

Rep. John Lewis, the black Georgia congressman who knew the three slain men, hailed the arrest Friday, telling NBC's "Today" that it was "a tremendous step down a very long road."

In 1967, the Justice Department tried Killen and 18 other men — many of them also Klan members — on federal civil rights violations. Seven were convicted and sentenced to prison terms ranging from three to 10 years. Killen was freed after his trial ended in a hung jury.

Sheriff Larry Myers said Friday that the Killen indictment was the only one he had received related to the Chaney, Goodman and Schwerner slayings. He said any information about possible additional indictments in the case would have to come from prosecutors, who have declined to comment.



Killen

NASA preparing to resume shuttle flights



Workers at NASA's New Orleans facility move the redesigned shuttle fuel tank to a barge that transported it to the Kennedy Space Center in Florida on Dec. 31. The redesigned fuel tank, a massive vessel that supplies propellant for the launch of the space shuttle, completed its 900-mile trip to Florida on Thursday.

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Chemicals leak from the tanks of a derailed train in Graniteville, S.C., on Thursday. A Norfolk Southern freight train carrying chlorine gas struck a parked train early Thursday, killing two people and injuring at least 180 others, authorities said.

Toxic gas from train wreck kills 8

The Associated Press

GRANITEVILLE, S.C. — The air in Graniteville remained too dangerous for people to breathe Friday morning, 24 hours after a Norfolk Southern train carrying chlorine gas crashed into a parked train near an Avondale Mills Inc. plant.

About 75 people found shelter at the University of South Carolina-Aiken on Thursday night, and shelter operators said the displaced residents were planning for a three-day stay.

More than 240 people sought treatment for respiratory and other ailments, and authorities said late Thursday that about 45 were admitted to hospitals.

Five victims, all men, were found at a mill near the wreck.

Another man died in a vehicle, and one died in his home. The engineer of the moving train died at a hospital.

Autopsies were planned, but authorities said all appeared to die from inhaling the chlorine gas.

The wreck is the second in two months in the small textile mill town near the Georgia state line. In November, five people were killed when their car was hit by a train at a rail crossing.

The toxic gas kept investigators from reaching the site and officials don't know how the two trains ended up on the same track. National Transportation Safety Board spokesman Keith Holloway said.

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Above: Kyle Strauss, left, a Cascadia Wild instructor, records data as Dylan Schertz, 11, and his father, Paul Schertz, take measurements from animal tracks in the Mount Hood National Forest in Oregon. Right: Jason Davis, left, Ian Abraham and Candace Larson, volunteer trackers for Cascadia Wild, examine animal tracks in the Mount Hood National Forest in Oregon.



AP photos

Oregon trackers searching for signs of a healthy forest

BY TYPH TUCKER

The Associated Press

MOUNT HOOD NATIONAL FOREST, Ore. — Jason Davis knelt in a snow-filled ditch beside a frozen gravel road, the bill of his baseball cap nearly touching four small marks in the snow.

As he examined the marks, more than a dozen other animals trackers gathered around.

"Could it be a mouse?" asked Davis, 31.

Some trackers looked up, searching for trees that could have dripped water onto the snow and caused the marks. Others followed the faint trail into the woods, but didn't see any more clues.

The trackers are volunteers with Cascadia Wild, which has organized the Wolverine Tracking Project for the past five years to bring urbanites closer to nature and gather information about animal species in Mount Hood National Forest.

Every Saturday and Sunday for six winter weekends, volunteers strap on snowshoes to spot

signs of wildlife around Mount Hood — Oregon's tallest mountain.

They record how many animal tracks they find and add the information to a growing database that is shared with the U.S. Forest Service.

In 2003, the group covered up to two square miles of forest in each of its 19 outings and found tracks left by animals including bobcats, red fox, rabbits, ermines and a spotted skunk.

Alan Dyck, forest wildlife program manager for the national forest, said the data provided by Cascadia Wild is valuable because surveys aren't routinely conducted in the million acres of forest land around Mount Hood.

In particular, predator data is useful to the Forest Service and can be used as a management tool. The existence of predators like pine martens, bobcats and wolverines indicates forest health.

"We are using the information to help monitor carnivores in general," Dyck said. "If they aren't there due to too many people or not enough food supply, it shows

we aren't doing our job to protect them."

Volunteers begin training in Portland, where they learn to identify animal tracks and sort out clues found in the woods.

On a recent outing, volunteers scouted snowy fields for traces of wolverines — one of the shyest of carnivores — while armed with measuring tapes, global positioning system units, data sheets and animal tracking books.

They only found tracks of animals the predator hunts — such as rabbits, squirrels and pikas. The volunteers use their classroom education to guess how big the animal was, how fast it was moving and where it was headed.

A few people learned over some tracks in the snow and were able to deduce they were made by domestic dogs — coursing erratically up a snow bank and back down again.

"Wild animals don't do that," said one of three trip leaders, Kyle Strauss, 28, from Portland. "They tend to run in a straight line."

Texas Twang sets 'em apart, researchers say

BY HOWARD WITT

Chicago Tribune

SAN ANTONIO — Turns out it's all in the y'all.

If you ever find yourself in a group of Southerners and want to spot the Texan in the bunch, listen hard for the y'alls. Most of them will surely use the expression — a contraction of "you all" — to refer to a group of people ("Are y'all goin' to the store?"), but the Texan is more likely to employ it to refer to a single individual as well.

That's just one of the unusual discoveries made by two linguistics professors at the University of Texas-San Antonio who are studying Texas Twang, the distinctive dialect of English produced by natives of the Lone Star State — and sometimes ridiculed by the rest of the country.

The husband-wife team, Guy Bailey and Jan Tillery, are fixin' to complete the last of their research this summer. When they're done finished with their work — which is underwritten by the National Geographic Society — they could write the definitive guide to what they lovingly call TXL, or Texas English.

"Texas is different — it's the only state that was its own country at one time and has its own creation story," said Bailey, a native of Alabama and provost and executive vice president of the university.

"Out of that has come a sense of braggadocio and a strong desire to hold on to a unique way of speaking."

Y'all is a case in point. Use of the term is spreading beyond the South throughout the United States, Tillery noted, largely because it fills a linguistic need: It's a clearer way to denote the second-person plural than the existing — and confusing — "you."

But Texans, in a kind of defiant counter-reaction to the mass appropriation of their beloved term, now also use it to refer to one person as well as many ("Y'all are my beautiful wife"), Tillery said.

"If the rest of the country says you can't use y'all except for more than one person, then of course we're going to take it and say, no, you can use it for one person," said Tillery.

To conduct their research, Bailey and Tillery have divided the state into 116 geographic grids and have sought to interview four representative Texans in each one. Ideally they try to find four generations of a single family, to chart linguistic changes over time.

To locate their subjects, they often approach small-town postmasters for referrals.

Interviewees are asked a series of 250 questions to check unique Texas pronunciations and determine whether they use certain words and phrases, such as "polecat" for skunk or "snake feeder" for dragonfly.

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Earhart's stepson plans to search anew

Company plans to launch expedition for vanished aviator this spring

By LIZ DOUP

South Florida Sun-Sentinel

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — The world loves a mystery, and Amelia Earhart's is a classic. Nearly 68 years ago, America's fearless female flier took off from a Miami airstrip and vanished in the Pacific on a flight around the world.

Now, a Maine-based ocean exploration company plans to launch an expedition this spring looking for Earhart's plane.

You can understand if Earhart's stepson, George Putnam Jr., feels as if he has flown this course before. Searchers have sporadically looked for Earhart's Lockheed Electra since it disappeared July 2, 1937, near Howland Island, a spit of land in the Pacific Ocean, about halfway between Australia and Hawaii.

Over the years, more than 100 books, movies and documentaries have mined the unfinished story of her remarkable life and her mysterious death. She offered pride and hope to a country crippled by the Great Depression. In the '20s and '30s, when many women didn't even drive a car, Earhart set records in the sky.

Putnam — 16 when his stepmother disappeared — would like to see Earhart's story completed. And at 83, he'd like to see that happen soon.

At his Boynton Beach, Fla., home, the genial Putnam, with a thatch of gray hair and an easy smile, recalls a swirl of unproven stories that surround Earhart's disappearance.

She was part of an espionage mission, spying on the Japanese. She was with Fred Noonan, her navigator. She landed on a nearby island and died there. Or this: She returned to the United States and lived out her life in New Jersey under another name.



George Putnam, 83, of Boynton Beach, Fla., is Amelia Earhart's stepson. A new expedition is searching for Earhart's lost plane. At Putnam's desk is a reprint of the July 5, 1937, Chicago Herald and Examiner with headlines about the search for Earhart.

Putnam has his own take on what happened to the woman who took him flying. And his isn't so dramatic or intriguing.

"Says Putnam, matter of fact, 'The plane ran out of gas.' Longtime friend Elgen Long, who'll be part of the search expedition, shares Putnam's belief.

"It wasn't a mystery," says Long, 77, a veteran pilot and co-author of "Amelia Earhart: The Mystery Solved." "It was an aircraft accident. A tragic accident."

Earhart and Noonan had 22,000 miles behind them when they took off from Papua New Guinea and were headed to Howland Island to refuel.

Only 7,000 miles remained in her goal: to be the first woman to fly around the world. At the time,

she was three weeks shy of her 40th birthday.

Using records that detailed air speed and weather conditions, Long charted her course across the Pacific. She ran into one fatal problem: headwinds stronger than she expected.

"She thought she had four extra hours of gas," Long says. "The headwinds changed that."

Among her last radio messages: "... gas running low. Been unable to reach you by radio."

In 2002, Long joined an underwater search for Earhart's plane led by Nauticos, the same company behind the current venture. Mechanical failure ended that search after about six weeks.

Now they plan to continue their search using sophisticated sonar equipment to sweep 1,000 square

miles of the ocean's floor northwest of Howland Island. Estimated cost: \$1.5 million.

Despite the years, Long expects the plane to be in good shape, if they find it.

Long believes the plane is in water nearly four miles below the ocean's surface, so deep the temperature is near freezing.

"It's like putting something in the deep freeze," he says. "No sunlight. No rust, no corrosion."

At the time Earhart and Noonan disappeared, the U.S. government launched a search that covered 250,000 square miles of ocean, but no trace of the plane was found.

Today's intricate equipment — even better than the tools that helped pinpoint the Titanic, Long says — gives searchers a better chance.

Long knows they won't find remains, but they could find such things as belt buckles or jewelry, he says.

If they do find anything, Putnam hopes it will make its way into a museum for all to see. He understands that the amazing Amelia belonged to the world.

"There was a woman who was an object lesson to others," he says.

"She was a role model to women. What she did took courage and stamina."

Putnam's father, part of the Putnam publishing family, was Earhart's promoter before they were married.

His mother was also a maverick who traveled the globe and liked adventure. Initially, at least, Earhart and his mother, Dorothy, were friends. Earhart dedicated her 1928 book "20 Hrs. 40 Min." to her.

Putnam, only 10 when his parents' marriage broke up, doesn't remember any marital turmoil. And he liked Earhart, "who was always nice to me."

"I don't know that it was love the way we think of it," says Putnam, describing their marriage. "But I think it was a happy, contented arrangement."

Putnam remembers his father's efforts to find his wife, long after the official search ended. In his desperate search, he offered cash rewards for information and was victimized by hoaxes.

She taught Putnam's older brother, David, to fly, and Putnam remembers flying with her.

"The noise — it's nothing like flying today," he says. "The banging and crashing sounds. There's no insulation. It was pretty darned noisy. I took a lot of stamina on her part."

"If they can find the plane, it would wipe out all the oddball stories," Putnam says. "Finally, it would all be put to rest."

Bozeman Victoria's gunmaker opens first stateside store

By GAIL SCHONTZLER

Bozeman Daily Chronicle

BOZEMAN, Mont. — English gunmaker Westley Richards made pistols and rifles that the British Army fired at Napoleon at Waterloo.

Since then, the firm, founded in 1812, has made fine hunting guns and rifles for Queen Victoria, the maharajahs of India and the famed safari hunters of Africa. So it's no wonder that people around Bozeman weren't quite sure how to market it when the U.S. agent for the venerable gunmaker opened its only store in America here.

"By the time Lewis and Clark published their journals, Westley Richards had published four catalogs," said Jim Kilday, a partner in Westley Richards Agency USA.

The Westley Richards store itself has walls adorned with trophies of gazelle, greater kudu and long-necked giraffe. It sells Courtney boots and shoes made in Zimbabwe from the hides of cape buffalo, ostrich and hippopotamus.

And its four safes hold firearms worth more than \$1 million, says Kilday.

Kilday, 62, and his son, Kevin, 33, the agency's general manager, talked recently about why they have brought the romance

of fine English firearms to the wilds of Montana.

It was a childhood dream come true, Jim Kilday said, when the opportunity arose a year ago to go into business with the Clode family, which has operated Westley Richards in England for nearly 50 years.

They considered making their headquarters in Ireland or Italy or a major American city, Kilday said. "We picked Bozeman, because Bozeman is paradise — one of the great undiscovered places."

Ninety percent of their business of buying and selling firearms is done over the Internet. And their clients, many of them sportsmen from places like Texas and California, already like to travel to Bozeman to fish and hunt.

The Bozeman agency imports firearms from England and trades hundreds of used guns, which can sell for as much as \$85,000, for a 15 percent consignment fee. Most clients plan to actually shoot their guns, not just hold them as investments, Kevin Kilday said.

Westley Richards is the oldest of the big three English makers of fine guns, James Purdey & Sons having been founded in 1814 and Holland & Holland in 1835.

Today the English company builds just 50



A .500 Nitro Express drop-lock rifle, displayed Dec. 24 at the Westley Richards store in Bozeman, Mont., shows some of the intricate engravings that are placed onto many of the Westley Richards rifles and shotguns. Richards made pistols and rifles that helped the British Army defeat Napoleon at Waterloo.

new firearms a year.

Each "bespoke gun" is made to order for an individual customer, who may wait two years or more to receive his prize.

A new shotgun sells for \$80,000, a new double rifle for \$90,000. The engraving

alone may cost \$30,000 to \$40,000 when inlaid with three colors of gold.

Today the parts are cut by machine, but they are still finely fitted by hand, much as they were in 1812. A thousand hours of work may go into each double rifle.

Study: Premies often develop disabilities

More than half of 'miracle babies' are at risk for long-term problems

BY STEPHANIE NANO

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Tiny "miracle babies" make for heartwarming stories, but the reality is that nearly half of all infants born extremely premature have significant learning and physical disabilities by the time they reach school age, the largest such study found.

Medical advances have allowed doctors to save earlier and smaller babies. While some developmental problems are known to be common among such children, the long-term consequences were not entirely clear.

"We needed to have some idea of really what this group was like when they grew up," said one of the researchers, Dr. Neil Marlow, a neonatologist at the University of Nottingham in England.

Guidelines call for not resuscitating the most severely premature babies, but where to draw the line is a controversial and emotional decision. The study's findings may help guide doctors and parents about whether it is wise to use heroic measures.

"Parents need to go into this situation with their eyes wide open and with an open dialogue with their doctors as to what they should do," Marlow said.

Normal pregnancy is 37 to 42 weeks. Marlow and his colleagues looked at 241 children below 6 years old who had been born between 22 and 25 weeks. They found that 46 percent had severe or moderate disabilities such as cerebral palsy, vision or hearing loss and learning problems; 34 percent were mildly dis-

Preterm and disability linked

According to a recent study, nearly half of all infants born extremely premature have significantly more learning and physical disabilities by the time they reach school age than their classroom peers.

Extremely preterm

Full term

Mild disability

34%

18%

Moderate disability

24%

1%

Severe disability

22%

0%

SOURCE: New England Journal of Medicine

abled; and 20 percent had no disabilities. The study also found that 20 percent had disabling cerebral palsy.

"This gives for the first time a real picture of what happens to these children who are at the limits of viability," said another researcher, Dieter Wolke of the University of Bristol in England.

Their findings are reported in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine.

The rate of premature births in the United States has crept up in recent years, in part because of a rise in multiple births and older mothers.



Navy Anderson is seen Nov. 11, 1997, at University of Utah Hospital in Salt Lake City in an incubator, one week after being born prematurely.

"It's important to realize that prematurity is a major public health problem. One in eight babies are born prematurely," said Dr. Scott Berns of the March of Dimes.

The British researchers tracked all extremely premature births in Britain and Ireland over a 10-month period in 1995. Of those who were born live, only a quarter survived and eventually went home from the hospital — 1 percent of those born at 22 weeks; 11 percent at 23 weeks; 26 percent at 24 weeks; and 44 percent at 25 weeks.

The surviving children were tested at 2 1/2 years, and about a quarter had severe disabilities. They were evaluated again at about 6 years.

Standard intelligence tests

showed 21 percent of them had moderate or severe learning disabilities. That figure rose to 41 percent when compared to the test scores of a group of similar classmates who were born at full term.

In an accompanying editorial, Drs. Betty Vohr of Women and Infants Hospital in Providence, R.I., and Marilee Allen of Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, said the study shows the limits of what medicine can do.

They cited publicity about "miracle babies" as one reason parents might seek to have their very premature child resuscitated. "We wish they all were little miracle babies, but they're not," Vohr said in an interview.

Jamie Anderson of Logan, Utah, had to make a quick decision right before her twins were

born at 23 weeks in 1997. She decided to have them resuscitated, although she knew the chances of survival were low and there was a risk of disabilities.

Her son, born at 507 grams (1 pound, 2 ounces), died within hours. Her daughter, Navy, who was 620 grams (1 pound, 6 ounces), endured four months of operations and blood transfusions before going home from the hospital.

"We were fortunate to have one survive, but we know what it's like to lose one," said Anderson, who will be sharing her experience as a March of Dimes ambassador this year.

As for her now 7-year-old daughter, Anderson said she is doing great with no complications and recently passed two milestones: learning to read and ride a two-wheel bike.

Theaters welcome babies to special screenings

BY MELISSA MANSFIELD

The Associated Press

RHINEBECK, N.Y. — Monte Romero sat on his mother's lap, looking up at the movie playing on the big screen and chomping on popcorn. After a few moments, he rubbed his eyes, hopped back out into the aisle and went exploring. The 2-year-old stopped and shouted, "Go!" while pointing to the screen, then returned to his mother.

Nobody shushed him. No rolled eyes or piercing stares accused Monte's mother, Marika, of ruining "Guerrilla: The Taking of Patty Hearst" by bringing along a toddler.

"See why you can't bring him to the mall?" Marika said, scooping him up onto her lap again. "He gets very excited."

The Romeros were at a "Bring Your Own Baby" movie at Update Films. Joining small movie houses and national theater chains, the Rhinebeck theater has begun to show special screenings just for parents and children.

The first-run films are the same ones the theater offers the rest of the week. Patrons can pick up a bottle of ginger ale or root beer, a homemade cookie or popcorn with real butter. When the movie starts, the



lights dim, but do not turn off entirely. The soundtrack is loud enough to hear, soft enough for babies to sleep through.

Marika Romero recalled bringing Monte to a recent screening of "Ray," about music legend Ray Charles, at a regular theater. She hoped he would sleep if he got bored.

"Once the first band started, he went 'Drums, mama! Drums!'" she said.

Tara Shafer of Rhinebeck, N.Y., and her 22-month-old son, Reid Curran, watch Monte Romero, 2, foreground, play with them Dec. 15 before the start of a movie at Update Films during "Bring Your Own Baby."

AP

The two spent the rest of the movie outside with the carpet sweeper.

"I do miss the big screen," she sighed, as she waited for the matinee to start.

Update Films has shown three "Bring Your Own Baby" movies so far, with hopes of continuing the program through the next year.

Parents pay regular matinee admission; the babies get in for free.

"The people who come are really happy," said Steve Leiber, who co-founded the nonprofit arts organization with his wife Dede in 1972. There is no one to say "Shhhhh ... be quiet."

Leiber heard of other theaters with matinees for moms, and wanted to try it. "It gives us a chance to get the people who were moviegoers" before they had children.

Midwestern chain Kerasotes Theatres holds "Matinee Movie Magic for Moms (and Dads)" weekly at four of its 75 theaters, featuring a stroller valet of the theater to help accommodate the new parents.

Loews Cineplex Entertainment launched a program called "Reel Moms" three years ago, and now operates in 20 cities. Loews' spokesman John McCauley said "the moms are also able to be very current, seeing the latest movies."

Many of the moms who contact the company say they feel isolated after having children and it helps to interact with other new parents in a social setting.

"We get to bring moms together, going through the same life stage," he said.

REDSXWN sparks rush on vanity plates

BY GLENN ADAMS
The Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Maine — New Englanders, almost as fond of their vanity license plates as they are of chowdash, lobster and their beloved Boston Red Sox, are proclaiming pride in the World Series champions with car-bumper messages that drive the point home.

Some are a bit in-your-face, such as WE WIN and VICTORY. Others are a little more subtle, such as ESXUC04, a Mainer's way of spelling out the reverse of the Curse. Others elated to see the Bambino's help lifted asked for CURSE-NO and 1954-RIP.

The Red Sox had barely completed their four-game World Series sweep over the St. Louis Cardinals on Oct. 27 before the orders started coming in to Maine's Bureau of Motor Vehicles, Maine officials said.

"Within hours of the final out in Game 4 of the World Series, requests for Red Sox-related vanity plates began to arrive," said then-Secretary of State Dan Gwadosky. The BMV received more than 60 requests by the time a Nov. 9 order was submitted for plate production.

"Dozens of additional requests have been received since. The total probably exceeds 100 at this point, and counting," said Gwadosky, whose term was to end Friday.

One motorist requested FENWAY, the venerable old ballpark that's home of the world champs. Variations from feminine Sox fanatics showed the monikers FNWY-CHK, BSTRN-GRL and SOX CHK. Another request seeks to identify a Mainer as part of a larger realm, RDSXNTN, or Red Sox Nation for the uninitiated.

Joyce McKenney's plate, SXWIN04, turned out to be confusing to some non-sports fans, who ask why it says "sex, win, four," the Richmond, Maine, resident said.

"Sports people, they love it. They think it's awesome," said McKenney, who watches every Red Sox game on TV or listens on the radio. "It's people who have no clue about sports who sit there and scratch their heads."

Another Maine fan's request for ORED-SOX reflects the sweet satisfaction of a series championship after a seemingly endless 86-year wait — or maybe it's just an

War wounded get glimpse of World Series trophy



REBEA CRITSER/Special to Stars and Stripes

Forced to throw down his New York Yankees baseball cap for the photo, John Ruchala (wearing the camouflaged Boston Red Sox cap) laughs with his colleagues from Human Resources Command Lt. Col. Pete Mueller (back left) and Col. Jeff Perry (back right) as Boston Red Sox President and CEO Larry Lucchino (front left) grinds the Yankees cap to the floor Thursday inside the Pentagon. Ruchala said he's "a Yankees fan and a good sport." Lucchino brought the World Series trophy to the capital area to show recovering veterans at Bethesda Naval Medical Center, Walter Reed Army Medical Center and the Pentagon as an appreciation for the servicemembers' sacrifices. The Red Sox won the World Series in October after defeating the Yankees, in the American League playoffs.

Irish spin on the team's name.

Fans who don't want anyone to forget that sweep over St. Louis ordered SOXIN4 and REDSOX-4.

A dozen Rhode Islanders asked for Red Sox vanity plates after the team's first World Series championship since 1918, said Nancy Tracy of the state's DMV. Some of their requests are RDSXFN, RDSX04, WE WIN and VICTORY.

The rush for Red Sox vanity plates was not nearly so intense in their home state where only eight were ordered after the series.

Fans craving to identify with their heroes seemed more interested in buying state-issue specialty Red Sox plates that raise money for children's cancer research, said Rob Creedon, spokesman for the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehi-

cles.

"Our numbers kind of spiked after the playoffs," said Creedon.

Massachusetts drivers mostly asked for a variation of the team's name, such as RZOX04 and SAWX04, while one sought to display the number worn by pitcher Curt Schilling and asked for RDSX38.

Vermonters were ahead of the game and had snapped up the obvious slogans long before the Red Sox ended their long World Series drought, said Motor Vehicles Commissioner Bonnie Rutledge.

"We already had some vanity plates related to Red Sox but they've been out there for quite a while," said Rutledge. "We've had none since they won."

In Connecticut, there's no way to tell how many Sox fans paid extra for vanity plates commemorating the World Series champs, motor vehicle spokesman Bill Seymour said.

"There are too many possibilities that could be associated with that," Seymour said.

Connecticut motorists can display plates that benefit Long Island Sound, child safety and pet care, but the state has no official license plate honoring the Red Sox. Massachusetts has its Red Sox "Jimmy Fund" plates. In Maine, a bill submitted to the Legislature seeks a special Red Sox plate.

Officials in New Hampshire's motor vehicle agency didn't return phone calls. The Granite State is among those with an on-line service through which motorists can see if the vanity plates they choose are already taken.

Interest in Red Sox vanity plates isn't limited to New England.

Nearly 100 New Yorkers who pledge no allegiance to the Yankees applied for vanity plates with messages about the Red Sox in the month after the World Series ended, the state's DMV said.

The Empire State who couldn't help but gloat after the Sox beat the Yankees for the pennant asked for BYENYNY.

Maine gets more than 50,000 requests for information about vanity plates per month. Maine's Vanity Plate Check is one of more than 20 online services that can be accessed through the Secretary of State's Web page.



Hikers make their way on one of the Viennese hiking paths in Vienna, Austria in November 2004. A novel study of hikers in the Alps made the intriguing discovery that different types of exercise had different effects on fats and sugars in the blood. Going uphill cleared fats from the blood faster, going downhill reduced blood sugar more, and hiking either way lowered bad cholesterol.

Hiking style dictates benefits

BY MARILYN MARCHIONE
The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — If exercise is too much of an uphill battle, you may want to try the downside.

A novel study of hikers in the Alps made the intriguing discovery that different types of exercise had different effects on fats and sugars in the blood.

Going uphill cleared fats from the blood faster, going downhill reduced blood sugar more, and hiking either way lowered bad cholesterol.

Both types of hiking are beneficial, but one may help diabetics more than the other, said Dr. Heinz Drexel of the Academic Teaching Hospital of Feldkirch, Austria, who reported the research at a recent American Heart Association conference in New Orleans.

His was a most unusual study, involving steep mountains and lifts at a ski resort.

"If you think about this in practical terms, it's pretty hard to imagine how any human being could just go one way and get back to where they started unless they happen to live near a cable car, which was used in this study," said Dr. Raymond Gibbons, a cardiologist at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., who had no role in the research.

Still, Dr. Gerald Fletcher, a cardiologist at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Fla., said the findings could be applied in the real world: People who work

in office buildings, for example, could take the stairs one way and the elevator the other, depending on what their exercise goals were.

Hiking uphill is concentric exercise, where muscles are shorter while hiking happens when you bend your arm or step upward.

Going downhill is eccentric muscle work, such as extending your arm or actively resisting stretching, which happens when you step down.

The Austrian researchers tested both forms of exercise on 45 healthy people who normally exercised very little. For the study, the participants took three to five hour-long hikes each week. For two months they hiked uphill and rode the ski lift down. The next two months they took the lift up and hiked down.

Their blood sugar and cholesterol levels were checked before the study started and after each two-month exercise segment. They also were given tests to see how quickly and well their blood removed fats and sugar after each exercise phase.

The hikers made no changes in their diets, so that the effects of the exercise could be isolated.

This could be good news for diabetics, who often have trouble with concentric and many types of aerobic exercise, Drexel said.

They also were better able to tolerate downhill hiking, and may get more out of it, too. It also might be a good way for people who do not exercise now to get started, Drexel suggested.

FACES

No trace of Swedish cellist

Beach Boys founder Brian Wilson is asking for help in finding a Swedish cellist swept away in the South Asian tsunami.

Markus Sandlund, 29, of the Stockholm Strings 'n' Horns, performed on Wilson's Grammy-nominated "Smile" album and Wilson's recent "Smile" tour. Sandlund and his girlfriend, Sophia, went to Thailand after finishing the "Smile" tour in Australia and New Zealand, according to a statement Wednesday on Wilson's Web site.



Sandlund

Beach Resort at Khao Lak, where in the hotel pool when the enormous wave hit. Sophia was swept away and later rescued, but Sandlund has not been found.

"I have been devastated since I heard the news that Markus is missing in Thailand," Wilson said. The 62-year-old singer-songwriter said he has sent an "agent" to try to find Sandlund but has turned up no trace of him. He asked that anyone with any information contact his Web site.

"My prayers go out to all of the victims and their families and I would ask you to say a prayer for Markus' safe return," Wilson added.

Last season for 'Osbourne's

Mark your calendars — the Ozzy Osbourne clan will be back Jan. 17 with the final season of their reality show, MTV an-



Osbourne

nounced Thursday. The hit TV series showcases the offbeat antics of the family as Ozzy and Sharon deal with the complexities of running a household — usually with a slew of obscurities.

Stone surprised by criticism

Director Oliver Stone said he was sur-

prised by the critical reaction to his historical epic "Alexander" — and put the blame on the fundamentalist morality in some parts of the United States.

Critics lambasted the movie, which stars Irish actor Colin Farrell, and some conservative groups condemned Stone's depiction of the Macedonian conqueror's sexuality.

"It was quite taken aback by the controversy and fierceness of the reviews about a character we don't really know too much about," Stone told reporters in London Wednesday before the film's British premiere.



Stone

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

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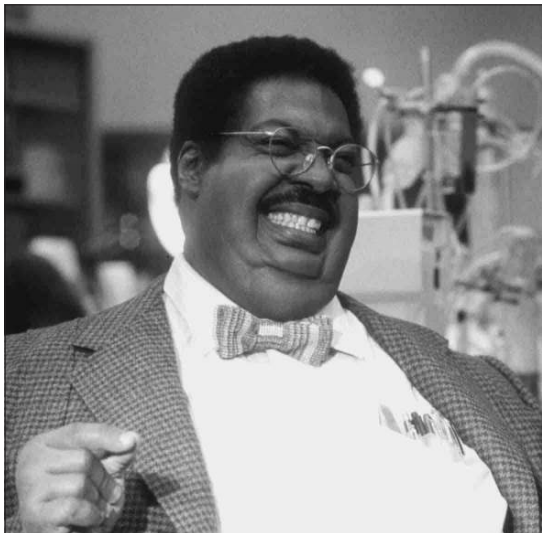
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Universal Studios



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Between "Saturday Night Live" alums Eddie Murphy, left, in the depths of a fat suit in "The Nutty Professor," and Bill Murray, above, in "The Life Aquatic," Murray wins "most successful" by a narrow margin.

QI've noticed that many of today's young stars — Jessica Alba, Kate Hudson, Britney Spears — wear too-long trousers. Is this a new fashion? — Tina Peters, Florence, Ariz.
AIt's a drag, but those touching-the-ground slacks go hand in hand with the latest Hollywood fashion statement for men — hanging shirttails. Don't worry: This too shall pass.

QI read that former "Cheers" star Shelley Long was in a hospital after attempting suicide. How is she doing? — Tom Jones, South Plainfield, N.J.

ALong, 55, is back home, surrounded by family and friends. She had to deal with the recent breakup of her 22-year marriage to stockbroker Bruce Tyson, but her reps insist it was a bad reaction to an accidental overdose of a painkiller — not a suicide attempt. Shelley asked us to tell her fans she sends "heartfelt thanks for all their good wishes."

QHas anyone won a Medal of Honor, our highest award for valor on the battlefield, for service in Iraq? — Herman Heyn, Baltimore

ANot yet. Our sources say two men who served in Iraq have been recommended, but the approval process normally takes two to three years. In fact, the most recent recipient, Army Capt. Humbert "Rocky" Versace, died in Vietnam in 1965 and was not awarded the medal until 2002 — after his records were upgraded. Cited for "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity," Versace was first recommended in 1969.

QIf the shareholders win their suit against some of the 15 directors of The Walt Disney Co., who hired Michael Oltz in 1995 and fired him with a \$140 million golden parachute in 1996, who will have to pay? — Ross Denton, Colorado Springs, Colo.

AThe members of the board of directors named in the suit, including Oltz himself and CEO Michael Eisner, if the judge rules that they breached their duty. Any damages paid by them (or by their liability insurers) would go to The Walt Disney Co. — which, in effect, belongs to the shareholders.



SH

American speedskater, and heartthrob, Apolo Ohno has been busy training for next year's Olympic Games in Italy.

QWhat has speed skater Apolo Ohno been up to since he won a gold and a silver medal at the 2002 Winter Olympics? — Melissa Sanchez, West Valley City, Utah

ATraining for the 2006 Olympics in Italy. Ohno, 22, leads the standings on the World Cup short-track speed-skating circuit. "I've been consistent this year, medaling in every single distance," he tells us. Off the ice, he donates his time to children's charities, including Make-a-Wish, and is negotiating with sponsors for lucrative endorsement deals.

QYou said Bill Murray had the most illustrious career of all "Saturday Night Live" alumni. Where does Eddie Murphy fall on your scale? — Dee Moore, Cleveland, Ohio

AA close second. Murphy's credits include a number of A-box-office blockbusters: "Trading Places," "Coming to America," "48 Hrs.," "Beverly Hills Cop," "The Nutty Professor," "Dr. Doolittle" and the donkey's voice in "Shrek" and "Shrek 2." Eddie, 43, has made more money, but we still think Bill is a more versatile actor.

QIs Deanna Durbin, the child star of the '30s, still alive? — Florio Paternis, West Hartford, Conn.

AYes. Now 83, Durbin lives near Paris in Neauphle-le-Chateau. Her third husband, French director Charles Henri David, died in 1999 after 48 years of marriage. The actress-singer (born Edna Mae Durbin) got a special Oscar in 1939 with Mickey Rooney but quit Hollywood in 1950 and hasn't granted a face-to-face interview since.

QAny chance Nathan Lane and Matthew Broderick, stars of "The Producers" on Broadway and film, will team up again? — Julie-Ann D., Las Vegas, Nev.

AThere's been a lot of talk on Broadway that Emanuel Azenberg, who has produced many of Neil Simon's plays, will bring the two back for a revival of Simon's "The Odd Couple." But until Lane, 48, and Broderick, 42, sign on the dotted line, says Azenberg, that's all it is — a lot of talk.

QAny details on the girl who recently played a young Linda Ronstadt on NBC's "American Dreams"? — Leslie Sykes, Seal Beach, Calif.

AJoJo Levesque, 14, began belting out songs at 2. "Music means everything to me," says the eighth-grader, who's been home-schooled in New Jersey. She quit public school when her success led to jealousy among her classmates, explains JoJo, adding, "I feel that going through hard times gave me something to write about." She penned three times on her self-titled 2004 CD.

Entertainers' relief effort off to slow start

Stars doing more individually, unlike after 9/11 when they banded together

BY SCOTT COLLINS
AND RANDY LEWIS
Los Angeles Times

HOLLYWOOD — Hollywood is scrambling to figure out how best to contribute to relief efforts in tsunami-stricken southern Asia. But it's clear that the catastrophe is prompting a more scattered response than the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States, after which the movie, TV and music industries banded together for an unprecedented international telethon.

Singers Sheryl Crow, Christina Aguilera and Tim McGraw have signed up for a Jan. 15 benefit for tsunami victims to be broadcast on NBC and its sister cable network.

Network officials said they had still not worked out many details. Actor George Clooney, who was closely involved in the Sept. 11 telethon, is helping to line up celebrities for the event, according to NBC. "I wish I had more to tell you," said NBC Universal Cable Entertainment President Jeff Gaspin, who is overseeing the special.

"When you're doing something like this in less than 10 days, it all comes together

really fast and at the last minute."

As it is, the NBC special will be jockeying with numerous other groups planning benefits, with the potential to create a charity logjam.

Willie Nelson was to headline a country-themed benefit Sunday in Austin, Texas, with proceeds going to the American Red Cross, UNICEF and Doctors Without Borders.

Two days after the Dec. 26 tsunami hit Indonesia, Thailand and other countries, taking an estimated 150,000 lives, rock band Linkin Park announced it was launching a nonprofit organization, Music for Relief, with a \$100,000 donation and requests for its fans to send money to the charity, which is relaying contributions to the American Red Cross.

Veteran singers Cliff Richard, Boy George and other British music stars plan to release a song to raise money for victims, the song's composer told England's Sky News television.

Infinity Radio Los Angeles is committing its eight radio and two TV stations in Southern California for a daylong fund-raising effort scheduled Monday, with proceeds being sent to the American

Red Cross.

Entertainment companies are stepping up corporate relief efforts as well.

News Corp., which owns the Fox Broadcasting Co., Fox News Channel and other outlets, gave \$1 million for tsunami relief to two groups, the Salvation Army and Oxfam. The company is also matching contributions given by employees, according to a spokesman.

And there are more grass-roots endeavors. One TV agent who was in Thailand during the disaster has told friends to send relief checks made out directly to him, which he says he will disburse when he returns to the country.

"For obvious reasons, this is not tax-deductible," Paul Alan Smith, an agent at the Broder Webb Chervin Silbermann Agency, wrote in an e-mail.

"Rest assured, I will document everything scrupulously," Smith confirmed in a phone interview that he wrote the e-mail. Actress Sandra Bullock donated a reported \$1 million to the American Red Cross, and Leonardo Di Caprio, who filmed the 2000 movie "The Beach" in Thailand, gave an undisclosed sum to UNICEF.

Director Steven Spielberg and his family donated \$1.5 million Tuesday to relief groups Save the Children, CARE and Oxfam.

"Although they generally make their donations anonymously, they are making this public to further encourage others to make donations of any amount to these and other organizations aiding the relief effort," a Spielberg spokesman said in a statement.

Actress Jane Kaczmarek is calling on her fellow celebrities to donate the fancy clothes off their backs for an auction to raise money for victims of the tsunami disaster.

Kaczmarek, who plays Frankie Muniz's mom on television's "Malcolm in the Middle," and her husband, "The West Wing" actor Bradley Whitford, are sponsoring a "Clothes Off Our Back" auction beginning the day after the Jan. 16 Golden Globe Awards.

The scattered nature of the efforts stands in sharp contrast to 2001, when an estimated 89 million U.S. viewers watched at least part of "America: A Tribute to Heroes," which aired 10 days after the Sept. 11 attacks.

Times staff writer Elaine Dutka and The Associated Press contributed to this report.



Nelson



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Thanks for improving Tajiri

On my 11th month in Iraq, and being a faithful reader of the letters page, it occurred to me that I couldn't remember the last time anyone had anything good to say about Tajiri.

In Spring 2004, people would give you sympathetic looks and comments when you told them you were going to Tajiri. Compared to pretty much everywhere else, this place was the pits. What our predecessors hadn't blown to total smithereens was taken over by many dogs, littered with unexploded ordnance or flooded with black water. Throw in rocket attacks, and this was another world compared to what most people were calling "home" around Baghdad.

It's a completely different story now. Of all the forward operating bases I've been to in the Baghdad area of responsibility, this one has more going for it — including the palatial digs of the Multinational Force. It didn't just "happen," nobody came in and fixed it for us. We did it: the Readiness Management and KBR civilians, the contracting officers, the engineers who changed the physical landscape, the local leaders who were both the rubber and the road, the local nationals and local contractors, the loggies and money counters at 1st Cavalry Division and III Corps who funded our dreams, Army and Air Force Exchange people, and the general officers who supported our requests for funding and provided the emphasis to get through tremendous bureaucracies. There were many who said these things would never happen — none of it was easy and it had to be done while fighting in combat. Yes, it was hard, very hard.

We continue to improve and now people are going to ask how they can get posted at Tajiri. Perhaps few will appreciate what went into those huge efforts, but before I get out of here, I just want those responsible to know that some of us will never forget it. Thank you!

LT. COL. CHRISTOPHER A. JOSLIN
Tajiri, Iraq

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tion, everyone gets a combat patch. Why is everyone so eager for another award? If you want to know why only the infantry and Special Forces get the CIB, read Paragraph 2-6, Army Regulation 600-8-22 (Military Awards), dated 25 February 1995.

From the beginning, Army leaders have taken care to retain the badge for the unique purpose for which it was established and to prevent the adoption of any other badge that would lower its prestige.

At the close of World War II, our largest war in which the armor and artillery played key roles in the ground campaigns, a review was conducted of the CIB criteria with consideration being given to creating either new badges or authorizing the badge to cavalry and armor units. The review noted that any change in policy would detract from the prestige of the badge.

I am a signal soldier. I have served my year here in Iraq. True, most of it has been in the Club Med of Camp Anzani, but I have gone outside the wire on convoys as well. I see no reason for me to get an infantry award.

It is called the Combat Infantryman Badge. If others want something that is made for the infantry, join the infantry. If you feel you deserve another badge, get

with your chain of command and see if they will make one for you.

Just look at who the award is meant for and leave it at that.

Sgt. Xavier Feldman

Camp Anzani, Iraq

Hunting is not best approach

Man hasn't needed to obtain sustenance by hunting for a long time. Add up the cost of gear, weapons, ammunition, training, plus four-wheel vehicle to get to the good places, and you'll never convince me of the economic value to hunting. The money spent on gear alone could buy sufficient domestic meat at any market to last a long, long time.

Those who advocate for the sport sanitize their point of view by using terms such as "wildlife management tool" and "humane harvest" to distract from the fact of killing a mammal through violent means. One writer feels bad if he thought he'd only wounded an animal ("Hunting is not animal slaughter," Jan. 5). I wonder how the animal felt about it.

Start a program that has professionals trap overstocked animal populations using net capture or other nonviolent techniques, then cull the animals for a painless end, or transport them to a facility for equally humane putdown. The meat could then be portioned out the same way hunters get it now, with people buying tags, licenses or charities.

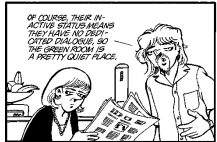
Of course, this nonviolent, economical and common-sense approach would put hunters and others who support the "sport" out of work. It would also eliminate the number of accidental-shooting injuries and deaths. There would be six human beings alive today in Wisconsin had there not been a dispute over a hunting stand.

Regarding the comment that hunting is not about "barbaric annihilation of poor defenseless animals," here's a quote from the January edition of *Adventure Outdoors*: "With a fistful of bow, a quiver loaded with beautiful feathered arrows, a backpack of survival gear and a heart full of primal scream, I hit it, and I hit it hard. A lion roared in my guts."

Perhaps this fellow should leap about in loin cloth and beat a drum, as I see nothing civilized in such commentary or point of view.

Col. John C. Hudson

Baghdad



OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

Canadian cows' range of motion
The Tri-City Herald,
Kennewick, Wash.

It's almost time to let the cows come home, the Bush administration has decided. Canadian cows, that is.

The decision by the U.S. government to reopen its borders in March to certain categories of Canadian cattle is a good move, backed with an abundance of caution.

The Bush administration is expected to proceed with lifting the ban even after Canada said that it had found a suspected new case of mad cow disease. No part of the 10-year-old dairy cow in question has entered human or animal food.

The ban, which sprang from a May 2003 case of mad cow disease in Alberta, has outlived its time. It may have ended sooner, if it were not for the United States' first case of mad cow disease, discovered in a Holstein from Mahtom last exactly one year ago. The Mahtom cow was traced back to a Canadian herd.

The U.S. government has repeatedly petitioned other governments to lift their bans on importing our beef. A reciprocal arrangement with Canada seems only fair....

The Agriculture Department says effective measures are in place to prevent and detect bovine spongiform encephalopathy.... With safeguards in place, it's time to return to the traditional across-the-border cooperation of U.S. and Canadian cattle producers.

Russians weigh freedom, order
Chicago Tribune

Five years ago, the first democratically elected president of Russia, Boris Yeltsin, signed the country's new constitution, signing. Turning to his hand-picked prime minister, Vladimir Putin, Yeltsin gave him the keys to the Kremlin and urged him to "lead Russia to the future."

Russia, as that new year of 2000 dawned, desperately needed care....

For their part, Russians have willingly traded in their unruly 1990s-style freedom for a chance at greater domestic security. Putin's approval ratings remain high.

Americans can understand that desire for freedom from terror. Though this country has not suffered a report of Sept. 11, 2001, Russia has been rocked by apartment bombings, blown-up airplanes, suicide bombings and the helicopter crashes in Beslan that resulted in the deaths of hundreds of children....

It is not great surprise that the Russian people are willing to trade Putin a stronger hand. Russians submitted to strong, autocratic leaders through hundreds of years of rule by the czars and 70 years of communism. Putin was elected in the Russian days of the Soviet KGB and his anti-democratic tendencies were apparent early on. He promised Russians stability and economic growth — both were in short order five years ago.

Fear has trumped hope for Russians. The state is becoming more powerful with the promise that it will make the more secure. Centuries of Russian history argue that that is a false promise.

Where is Putin taking Russia? Certainly not to the re-creation of the Soviet empire. But the chances that Russia will develop into a free, prosperous and modern democracy seem to be slipping away.

Insurgents won't rock Iraq vote
The Poughkeepsie (N.Y.) Journal

President Bush is holding firm that Iraqi elections must take place at the end of this month. It's the best time to take, for now. For all the likely problems with distributing and counting ballots in such a chaotic cli-



mate, delaying elections could exacerbate fears the United States isn't committed to removing its troops as soon as possible. Many Iraqis, factions, and members of the world community, still have great distrust about U.S. intentions in Iraq. More importantly, the Bush administration realizes the sooner elections are held, the faster it will be able to withdraw troops and let the Iraqis run their own country....

Free and safe elections are, of course, the key to success in Iraq. The insurgents are mustering all they can to derail the effort, but the interim Iraqi government must try to move forward....

For their part, U.S. authorities are ramping up efforts to make sure military vehicles operating in Iraq have the proper armor to protect troops against attacks. And the military also will boost U.S. troop strength in the short term, adding about 12,000 to 138,000 already serving in Iraq.

Those efforts are essential. The United States also has to make a long-term investment by providing better training for Iraqi security forces.

It's still anyone's guess whether the January elections can be carried out.... But it's clear delaying the vote would be a huge victory for the insurgents.... That is reason enough to stick with the timetable for now.

U.N. 'stingy' in appreciation
The Gazette, Colorado Springs, Colo.

Maybe "stingy" means something different in Norwegian than it does in English. That might explain how comments made by Jan Egeland, the Norwegian who serves as emergency relief coordinator for the United Nations, suggesting that the United States and other countries were being less-than-generous in responding to the tsunami disaster in Asia, could have been "misinterpreted."

Egeland conducted the Dec. 27 press conference at the United Nations in English, however. "It is beyond me why we so stingy, really," he said. "If the foreign assistance of many countries now is 0.1 or 0.2 percent of their gross national income.... I don't think that is very generous." That provoked a strong response from Secretary of State Colin Powell — "The United States is not stingy," he said — and led to some "clarifications" from Egeland the next day, claiming he'd been misinterpreted.

The United States contributes roughly 0.13 percent of its Gross Domestic Product each year to development aid — that excludes food aid (of which we are by far the world's biggest provider), funds for rebuild-

ing Iraq and Afghanistan and private donations. That's less than the 0.7 percent of GDP the United Nations suggests we contribute, but given that the U.S. economy is the world's largest, it's still a generous expenditure — and can't be called "stingy" in any language.

Voyeur law: Seeing is believing
The Times-Picayune, New Orleans

A federal law that now makes it illegal to surreptitiously film or photograph another person should help thwart the abuse of advances in technology that have made taking pictures effortless.

Small video cameras can be installed virtually anywhere, and many mobile phones now come equipped with cameras. They've become the tools of the perverted who have sneaked them into gym locker rooms and public restrooms.

The law that was signed by President Bush applies only to voyeuristic acts committed on federal property. Proponents of the legislation cited examples of inconspicuous cameras being used to capture images of people in dressing rooms and showers on Navy warships.

That's despicable. But until this new legislation was passed, there was no law that made such actions illegal. That gap between what we know to be wrong and what we've deemed illegal was similar to a loophole Louisiana had until recently.

Susan Wilson, a Monroe woman, discovered in 1998 that a neighbor had been secretly recording her and her family's private moments.

When she went to authorities, however, she discovered that even though in-person voyeurism was illegal, videotaped voyeurism had not been addressed.

Wilson's complaints led to the passage of a video voyeurism bill in Louisiana that made the action a felony. Since then, more than 30 other states also have taken a stance against video voyeurism.

An assault on fair punishment
The Plain Dealer, Cleveland

Todd Bertuzzi has gotten a break he does not deserve from a provincial court in British Columbia. Bertuzzi is the Vancouver Canucks hockey star who, in the closing seconds of a lopsided loss in March, viciously attacked a fan. More of the Colorado Avalanche from behind....

Three days before Christmas, Bertuzzi accepted a very nice present from prosecu-

tors: By pleading guilty to assault causing bodily harm and agreeing to pay a \$500 fine and perform 80 hours of community service, he can walk away with no criminal record after a year. A hearing to ratify the deal was arranged so hastily that Moore could not travel from his home in Massachusetts to face his assailant in court.

Had he appeared, Moore might have talked about what the attack meant to him. Almost 10 months later, he still suffers from headaches, memory loss and mood swings. He cannot skate or work out....

At its best, professional hockey is a game of speed and grace. But one reason that so few Americans follow it — and even fewer see its refusal to take this year's shutdown — is the NHL's upset to take an unbending stand against the eye-for-an-eye violence represented by Bertuzzi's assault.

Oust Annan for his inaction
The Tribune-Democrat,
Johnstown, Pa.

It's time for America to sever ties. We aren't prepared to call U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan a crook. He may simply be an incompetent. But either way, Annan has no right to be given an additional two years in his prestigious position....

There was the U.S.'s oil-for-food scandal in Iraq. As Nile Gardiner of The Heritage Foundation noted in a recent column, it was "the biggest scandal in the history of the United Nations and the biggest financial fraud of modern times." He wrote that the U.N. program was supposed to help the people of Iraq, but instead enriched their corrupt leaders.

Charles Duelfer, a U.S. weapons inspector, wrote that Annan's hand-picked director of the program supposedly received a voucher from Saddam Hussein for 13 million barrels of oil. Some humanitarian program that was? There was the scandal in the Congo involving U.N. personnel and peacekeepers. Gardiner wrote that the U.N. is accused of human rights violations against refugees "on a scale that dwarfs the Abu Ghraib scandal." Annan even accepted organizational responsibility for that debacle....

As the leading financial sponsor of U.N. operations, the United States should demand the immediate removal of Annan. If President Bush does not have the fortitude to do it, Congress should be cutting off all U.S. payments to the U.N....

In recent years, the U.N. has become a forum for strong expatriate American sentiment. It is time that the United States stopped paying for its own relevance.

Winner steps up

FL TALLAHASSEE — It took Robert G. Swofford Jr. more than a month to come forward and claim his \$60 million Lotto prize, but he had to take care of some unfinished business — divorcing his wife.

Swofford, a postal worker from Seminole County, claimed his prize Tuesday in a \$34.7 million lump sum payout, ending weeks of mystery about who won the Nov. 24 drawing.

Swofford, 53, and his wife separated three years ago. But two weeks after the winning numbers were announced, Ann Swofford served him with divorce papers and claimed a share of the prize.

Just before Christmas, the Swoffords and their lawyers hammered out an agreement. His wife will get \$5.25 million and \$1 million will be set aside to support their 11-year-old son.

Ticket on top of injury

UT ST. GEORGE — A man who managed to drive himself to the emergency room after being shot in the calf with a nail gun got more bad news after having his wound treated.

He was ticketed for not stopping when ordered.

Utah Highway Patrol Trooper Ben Lang started chasing the man's vehicle Tuesday after it was spotted driving recklessly on Interstate 15 and tailed the man to the hospital.

At one point, Lang said he told the driver over a loudspeaker to pull over and said the man got out of his car at a stop light. When Lang told him to get back in his car and pull over, the man took off again toward the hospital.

Kidney offered to friend

MN MINNEAPOLIS — The brotherhood of cops in Minneapolis is about to get even closer thanks to one officer's decision to offer a kidney to an ailing colleague.

Officer Ron Reier, Police Department spokesman, was scheduled to donate a kidney this week to fellow officer and friend Jeff Seidl.

Seidl has to undergo kidney dialysis three times a week. He needs another kidney transplant because the kidney he received from a relative began to fail about a year ago.

Reier said testing showed they're "enough of a match to make it work."

The transplant was scheduled Friday at Fairview University Medical Center. Both officers plan to return to work in a few weeks.

Tree blaze kills 1

NY NEW YORK — A boy playing with a cigarette lighter set a Christmas tree ablaze in a Queens apartment building, starting a fire that killed one person and injured several others, authorities said.

The fire began on the first floor of 96-05 50th Avenue in the Corona section and was under control, the Fire Department said. Flames spread to the upper floors of the building, and firefighters found a dead body inside an apartment on



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

the third floor.

The boy's grandfather, Javier Urbano, 48, told Newsday that he was asleep at the time the fire was set.

Bartender charged

TX HOUSTON — A bartender was jailed in the shooting death of a customer who had argued over a missing purse at a tavern.

Willie A. Burton was held in lieu of \$40,000 bail on a murder charge. Police said Burton, 35, is charged in the death of Jaquana Singleton, 26.

Singleton's family said she and Burton then got into a heated argument about finding the missing purse. Burton allegedly pulled a handgun from her pocket during the argument and shot Singleton once, said investigators.

Police said the missing purse was found later in a trash bin outside the northeast Houston bar.

Grizzly bear tracks

AK FAIRBANKS — A joker — or perhaps a deformed bear — is trying to freak out hikers.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has received several reports of people walking trails at Creamer's Field who came across



Flipping over temps

Sean Kingsbury, from Monterey, Calif., does a back flip while enjoying a break in the weather at the Carmel River State Beach.

grizzly bear tracks.

But, upon closer inspection, officials are ruling out a real bear.

"It's either a person or a circus bear with two left front feet walking on its hands," said state wildlife biologist Harry Reynolds. "There are no hind tracks."

The tracks feature a foot pad, toes and claws that stretch out 3 inches from the toes. Reynolds said it's either a boot or some attachment someone is putting on a boot.

Pushing county merge

ME AUGUSTA — A legislator from Appleton is pushing a plan to merge Maine's 16 counties into eight to help ease the state's property tax burden. County government is the fastest-growing service that relies on property taxes, and tax reform should begin with reform of county government, Barbara Merrill said.

Snake not cause of crash

CA SAN FRANCISCO — A woman who died after hitting a tree while driving on the expressway was found with her pet boa constrictor around her neck, but police say they don't believe the snake had anything to do with the accident.

Acquaintances said Margaret Ann Walters, 29, often wore her 3-foot-long boa constrictor. Police said they found an open container of alcohol in her car.

The snake, which survived the crash, was taken to an animal shelter.

Animal cruelty charges

ID EVANSVILLE — Misdemeanor charges of animal cruelty, not felonies, will be filed against two former Wal-Mart assistant managers accused of shooting and killing a stray cat in a food-store trailer.

Vanderburgh County Prosecutor Stan Levco said he decided to file the charges after meeting with the sheriff's detective who investigated the animal-cruelty complaint. Levco added he also considered charging the store's former head manager, Darrel Weitzel, with animal cruelty. But the detective who questioned those involved determined Weitzel did not order an assistant manager to kill the stray.

Contraband conviction

CO COLORADO SPRINGS — A man serving a life sentence for murder was sentenced to three additional years in prison for passing out cheese sandwiches while in jail.

Douglas Eugene Wilson, 45, pleaded guilty to possession of contraband and was sentenced by District Judge Thomas Kane.

Prosecutors said Wilson had the sandwiches while in jail awaiting trial on the murder charge and he tried to give them to other inmates, which is a violation of jail rules.

A sheriff's deputy testified at a hearing in May that they warned Wilson not to pass food to other inmates then shocked him with a stun gun when he ignored them.



Game time

Aaron Laughlin, 8, background, smiles as Dalton Hargrove, 6, aims a basketball in the Yucca Recreation Center's gym in Roswell, N.M.



Room on the rocks

Brett Thorne, 25, is silhouetted in a misty window in Kansas City, Mo., as he painted the interior of a building the color Margarita Green. He is helping a friend convert the former antique store into the second location of Scott Fitness.



Icy conditions

A car carefully makes its way down an ice-coated lake in Bainbridge, Ohio. A mix of snow, sleet, and ice rain fell from the skies, making travel treacherous.



Always prepared

Reed Ronan of Arkadelphia, Ark., gathered all the umbrellas he could find to make a rain tent in his front yard.



Wet kisses

Jo Lynn Mehaffy, a groomer at Wild Dog Ranch Grooming Co., in Burlington, Iowa, gives Buddy, a schnauzer and poodle mix, a kiss while giving the dog a hair cut.

Drought worries no more

CA SANTA BARBARA — City officials' worries over three dry winters are washing away. Two weeks of rain have caused Gibraltar Dam to spill over the top and Lake Cachuma has risen 19 feet since Sept. 1. Before the rains, the City Council was gearing up to declare a drought warning for residents. It will revisit the issue in April.

Sentence in attack

TX FORT WORTH — A man who fatally shot his estranged wife and wounded her lover in 1998 was sentenced to 15 years in prison for attacking the suitor.

The assailant's son, in tearful testimony, blamed him for his mother's loss.

Jimmy Dean Watkins pleaded guilty to attempted capital murder for shooting Keith Fontenot during the confrontation in which he killed his wife, Nancy, with multiple gunshots.

Jurors in October 1999 convicted Watkins of murder but found that he shot his wife under "audacious passion." Watkins received 10 years' probation in a decision that stunned prosecutors and gained national attention. State District Judge Bob Gill of Fort Worth sentenced him to 120 days in prison as a condition of the probation on his wife's slaying.

Abuse allegations denied

KS TOPEKA — A couple pleaded not guilty in federal court to criminal charges stemming from allegations they abused mentally ill adults in their care.

The 35 charges against Arlan D. Kaufman, 68, and his wife, Linda J., 61, include conspiracy, mail fraud, health care fraud, holding mentally ill adults in involuntary servitude and forcing them to do labor.

The Kaufmans operated a treatment center in Newton, in central Kansas, for the mentally ill. A complaint filed in October accused them of abusing residents and forcing some of them to work nude on a farm about 50 miles from the group home in 1999.

A federal grand jury indictment issued last week also alleged they physically, psychologically and sexually abused group home residents, kept two people in involuntary servitude for 14 years, and defrauded the federal Medicare.

Clout from grave

MN ANOKA — Longtime Anoka City Council member John Weaver has remained a political force even from beyond the grave.

In a letter opened to the public, Weaver asked that his son, Jeff, be selected to replace him on the City Council.

The letter was written before Weaver's Dec. 18 death of cancer.

Jeff Weaver, who has never held elective office, said he appreciates his father's plan. "It would have been done with a wink and a smile," he said.

Some on the council want to honor John Weaver's request. But if the council splits 2-2, Mayor Bjorn Skogquist can appoint a suc-

cessor.

Realty prices soar

HI HONOLULU — The median price for an existing single-family home on Oahu reached a record \$495,000 in December, when 417 single-family homes and 701 condominiums were sold, an industry expert said. The median prices for condos last month was \$217,000, down slightly from November. Harvey Shapiro, Honolulu Board of Realtors research economist, says Hawaii's strong housing market is expected to continue this year.

Incorrect census count

MA BOSTON — The state's Inspector General says Gov. Mitt Romney failed to take steps to force the U.S. Census Bureau to correct Massachusetts' population by adding the 30,000 college students living in the Bay State.

"I think it's very disappointing that a matter of this financial magnitude could slip through the cracks," Inspector General Gregory W. Sullivan said in a letter he sent Romney. He attributed the incorrect count to a data-gathering flaw, and said he had warned Romney of the problem in May 2003.

The census bureau announced last month that Massachusetts was the only state in the nation that lost population between 2003 and 2004.

The state is losing about \$24 million in federal funds for Medicaid and community development block grants because of the under-count, Sullivan said.

Unwanted shower

FL EAGLE LAKE — Say it, don't spray it.

That's the message from Vice Mayor Dennis Pate, who accused former city manager Linda Weldon of spewing saliva at him after a city of council meeting last month. He wants a new rule to prohibit spitting at meetings.

But Weldon denies that saliva ever passed her lips.

"That is the most asinine and juvenile thing I have heard," she said.

The alleged spitting was preceded by an argument between Pate and Weldon over two minor issues at a city council meeting.

Biosphere expansion

AZ TUCSON — The Texas company that built and owns the Biosphere 2 Center near Oracle has formally put up for sale the 3.1-acre glass terrarium and 70 other buildings on the 140-acre campus.

"This is one of the most spectacular properties in Southern Arizona — if not the most spectacular — so we think it should attract some interest," said Christopher T. Bannon, general manager of Decisions Investment Corp. of Fort Worth, which owns Biosphere 2.

The campus, 16 miles north of Tucson in Pinal County, has more than 300,000 square feet of space including offices, classrooms, laboratories, residential housing, and a hotel and conference center.

It remains open as a tourist destination and Bannon said more than 85,000 people visited the center last year.

Stories and photos from wire services

YOUR MONEY

Tax time coming—watch for those forms

Start preparing papers now, experts say

BY EILEEN ALT POWELL

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Among the credit card bills, post-holiday sales flyers and junk mail this month will be a number of letters that consumers will want to save. These contain the W-2s, 1099s and 1098s, and other forms Americans need for their annual April taxpaying ritual.

Eric Tyson, a financial counselor and co-author of "Taxes for Dummies," suggests consumers set up a file folder or large envelope to collect the incoming tax documents so they're ready when the time comes to fill out income tax forms that are due April 15.

"When it's all in one place, it's easier to do your taxes," Tyson said.

Taxpayers trying to pull their papers together at the last minute can make mistakes or miss valuable deductions, he said.

In fact, a study by the Government Accountability Office found that more than 2 million Americans overpaid their federal taxes by an average of \$438 because they claimed the standard deduction rather than writing off items such as mortgage interest payments, state and local taxes, and charitable contributions.

Tyson also suggests consumers "take at least a glance" at the incoming tax documents to make sure they're correct.

"You don't want to wait until April 14, because you won't be able to get errors corrected in time to get your return filed on time," he said.

The form that's the most important at tax time for workers is the W-2, which employers provide. W-2s contain information on workers' total earnings, as well as the amount of federal, state and local taxes that have been withheld.

Most employers distribute W-2s at their workplaces, but some mail them to workers as well as to former employees.

Other forms likely to show up in mailboxes in coming weeks are 1099-INT forms, on which financial institutions report the amount of interest paid to consumers, and 1099-DIV forms, where dividend earnings are recorded.

Financial institutions send copies of many of these tax forms directly to the Internal Revenue Service, said Lonnie Gary, a committee chairman with the National As-

sociation of Enrolled Agents, based in Washington, D.C. Enrolled agents are licensed by the government to assist consumers with their taxes.

"The government uses these third parties to verify many sources of income," Gary said. That should help motivate accurate reporting by consumers, he added.

Gary, who works as a tax manager with American Express Tax and Business Services in Mountain View, Calif., said workers who haven't received their W-2 forms by the first week in February should call their employers and ask when they will be available.

"They go astray more often than you'd think," he said.

"People move, change addresses, but the W-2 goes out to the previous address."

If a company has gone out of business, workers generally can use their final pay stubs to prepare their taxes, he said.

Peggy Munro, an enrolled agent in Montpelier, Vt., who also wrote sections for the "Taxes for Dummies" book, pointed out that

there are a variety of 1099 forms that taxpayers may need.

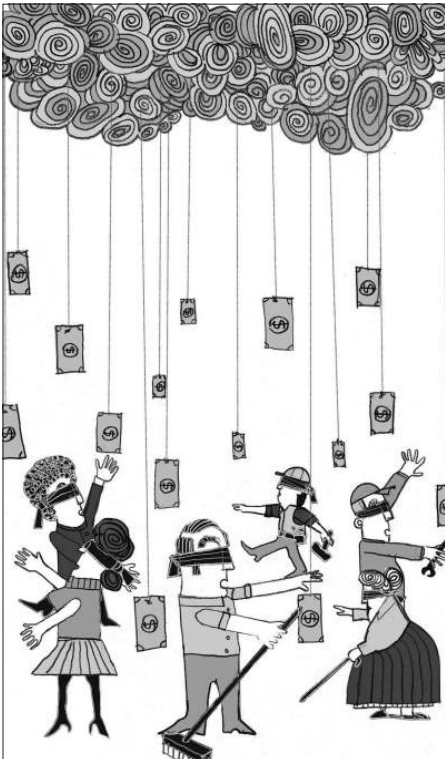
In addition to those with information about taxable interest and dividend payments, there are 1099s used to report sales of real estate and stocks, pension and Individual Retirement Account distributions, and Social Security. Other 1099 forms are used to report unemployment compensation or state and local tax refunds.

While most of the forms that arrive in the mail have to do with income, there are some that will be of help to consumers who itemize their taxes and claim deductions.

The most common item in this category is the 1098, which financial institutions issue to report the interest that consumers paid on their home mortgages, she said. Some 1098s also show real estate taxes paid from the homeowner's escrow account. There's also a 1098-E, an interest statement for those paying back student loans.

"People should also expect to receive statements for charitable donations," Munro said. "For donations of \$250 or more, the charity is required to give you a receipt. Many charities don't mail them out until January of the following year."

She added: "If you've made those contributions and haven't received receipts, get on the phone and ask for them. A cancelled check is no longer proof for the deduction."



THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS/JRT

Some lower-income workers not receiving credit

The Dallas Morning News

The concept is almost beyond comprehension. The Internal Revenue Service actually wants to give people money.

The IRS wants more eligible taxpayers to claim the Earned Income Tax Credit, which is designed to ease the tax burden on the working poor.

"It's not often that you hear the IRS is recruiting people to claim a credit," said David Williams, director of the EITC program at the IRS.

The most recent IRS figures show that 27 percent to 32 percent of EITC claims have errors.

"We want everybody who qual-

ifies for the credit to claim the credit, but we don't want to pay out the dollars on this to those who don't qualify," said commissioner Mark W. Everson. "It helps lift people out of poverty, but it can't be subject to the high error rate that it is and not be subject to criticism."

It comes down to educating taxpayers. If you're single with income below \$12,000, or married with children and income below \$36,000, it's worth claiming it.

That doesn't mean you qualify. There are pitfalls to watch out for.

All you have to do to claim the credit is fill out a federal tax return along with the worksheets that tell you how much your

credit will be. That sounds simple, but unfortunately it's pretty complicated.

Nationally, 21 million low-income families qualified for the credit last year and received \$36 billion. But IRS studies indicate that millions more are eligible but fail to claim the credit.

David Williams, director of the program at the Internal Revenue Service, said slightly more than 75 percent of eligible taxpayers claim the credit.

More than 90 percent of eligible mothers with children claim the credit, he said. But you don't have to have a child to claim the credit. The maximum credit is \$4,300 for a family with two or more chil-

dren. When the tax credit exceeds the amount of taxes owed, it results in a refund.

"The EITC lifts millions of families above the poverty line every year," Williams said. "It becomes a supplement to their earned income."

Even so, you don't owe taxes, be sure to file an income tax return. That's the only way you can claim the credit.

But make sure you qualify, because the IRS monitors the program closely for errors and fraud. The amount of the credit depends on your earned income, the number of children you have and your filing status.

To start, you must have earned

income from wages or self-employment.

"Review your circumstances over the past year," Williams said. "Don't guess whether you qualify."

The most common error is incorrectly claiming a "qualifying child," he said. You must have lived with your child for more than half the year.

"The rules for claiming a qualifying child are somewhat complicated," Williams said. "It's not a surprise that a number of people get them wrong."

For information on claiming the credit, go to the IRS Web site at www.irs.gov and download Publication 596, Earned Income Credit. You also may order a free copy by calling toll-free 1-800-825-5376.

Sunday Horoscope

Capricorn hosts the astrological party, or perhaps the word "gathering" is more fitting, as this is no out-of-control event. A dignified, formal affair. Venus and Mercury enter fashionably late, inspiring us to take a more serious approach to relationships. Notice love's role in your life. How do you love, and how do you know you are loved?

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (January 9). You build on your fantastic attributes this year and kick some of your less fantastic habits in the process. A lucky deal comes through for you at the end of this month.

Romantically, you'll be more aware of what you're giving and therefore ready to accept better, too. Commitments are nailed in April. Retreat in August. Love signs are Aries and Gemini.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The stars activate your envy but. Someone rich makes life seem easy from your point of view — as if all you have to do is make enough money and everything else will follow. Look deeper for truth and meaning.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). They say domestication is the enemy of romance, but you can tame them wrong. You've got a game of arranging your environment to bring about amorous feelings. What style. What class.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Someone stunning captures your heart — for the moment, that is. You could lose all your senses and pull an "Oops... I did it again" ala the Britney Spears song. Make sure your "captor" knows you're not really serious.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your mental picture lights up — it's your chance to be downright scholarly. Fascinating information drifts onto your path. Soak it up like a child with an open mind who doesn't know his or her limitations.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're in no mood to dry your feelings. While you're looking longingly in someone's direction, someone else is looking longingly toward you. These games of triangular love

could go on for days.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Noble pursuits are necessary to sustain life. And so are frivolous pursuits. Engage equally in acts of big importance and graceful insignificance — although you may find it difficult to distinguish between the two.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It's the perfect time to take a risk in love — it has to be a real risk, though, the kind that makes your palms sweat. If you know your gesture is going to be well received, it doesn't count. The very essence of romance is uncertainty.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're aligning with your sensuality. You find beauty in natural occurrences and music in the soft wind and gentle rain. Restore your balance by taking time alone to appreciate the elements in your own way.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your social acumen goes deeper than just being a witty participant in the right place with the right people. When friends come to you in a broken-down state, you offer love in the form of a listening, non-judgmental ear.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Relationships are an intricate puzzle, and you'll find new pieces together today. It feels like you've been asking the same question since the dawn of time. Well, you finally heard, and you'll get your answer.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Romantic risk is favored. You are just imagining the pain you anticipate will happen if you put your heart on the line. But if you think it's going to hurt, it probably will. The trick is to hold still just when you feel like running.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There's a chance to show great mercy. Such an opportunity doesn't come along every day, so seize the moment. You can make a difference to the person who needs your help the most.

Creators Syndicate

Holiday Mathis



Make certain neighbor gets point that she's far too nosy

Dear Abby: How does one deal with a nosy neighbor? "Miss Noss" looks through my mail, and I caught her red-handed with a former neighbor's mail, which she had opened, read and apparently hoarded. I didn't confront her because I had just moved next door and didn't want to start a feud.

Miss Noss claims she got something for her mail too. I guess my nosiness hasn't accidentally put something in her mail too. There. Doesn't she know that if he, I'd give it to her? If someone comes to my door, Miss Noss calls and demands to know who it is and as much about his or her life history as I'm willing to share. She also asks me questions that are far too personal. She is elderly, but I don't think that's a valid excuse for her behavior.

I'm considering replacing my mailbox with one that locks so that only I can get my mail there.

Invaded in Tennessee
Dear Abby: I was in a neighbor is doing is called mail tampering, and it's a felony. A locked mailbox is the surest, safest solution to your problem. You would be doing your neighbors a tremendous favor if you

called the local postal inspector's office and reported what the woman is doing. They may not have Miss Noss off to the pokey, but she'll be sent a letter saying that what she's doing is a felony, and if a check shows no missing, she'll be blamed for it.

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contact with him and say, "Stop it! We don't do that! If you're going to bite, you can't play with Lee." Then the child must be separated from his cousin for a 15- to 30-minute time-out. Once Alan understands there are consequences for his actions, the biting should stop.

Dear Abby: My husband, "Brad," and I have a beautiful daughter, "Annie," who was born after a difficult labor and an emergency C-section in April 2001.

We're now expecting our second child, who is due next April just a few days after Annie's birthday. (This birth will also be Caesarian.) Brad thinks it would be great to have the baby on Annie's birthday, but I'm not so sure. Do you think it's best for each child to have their own birthday, or would it form special bonds between siblings to share a birthday?

—Uncle Decided Mama in Ohio
Dear Abby: I'm pleased to oblige. Children are individuals, and each child should have one day to be the sole center of attention. Although it might be more convenient to celebrate both birthdays together, I recommend against it.

Letters for this column — with your name and only your name — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.abbycahill.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

Daughter must deal with dad, his dislike for her boyfriend

Dear Annie: I am a good kid. I'm 19 years old and a freshman in college, planning to be a veterinarian someday. I make good grades, I don't do drugs, don't drink and don't party. I am not having sex, and I go to church every Sunday.

My father, however, complains about my choice of boyfriend. "Kyle," whom I have been dating off and on for five years, is not perfect, but he treats me like a queen, isn't abusive and doesn't pressure me about sex. Right now, Kyle has no job and doesn't have the money to go to college, but he's working hard to develop the skills needed for a good career, maybe in the military.

Kyle and I had sex before der-dovoting ourselves to our religion. My father holds this against us and, consequently, dislikes Kyle immensely. Dad insists that I date other people and gets angry when Kyle is I go out. Dad also thinks Kyle is not good enough for me because he cannot support me. Since we aren't planning to get married anytime soon, I'm not worried about finances, not to mention

my salary as a veterinarian ought to help a lot.

Here's the problem: Kyle's parents have invited me to join them for a vacation at a cabin they are renting. I have agreed to go, and my father is furious. I am old enough to make my own choices but still subject to punishment, and my vengeful father will probably take away my car.

Am I supposed to be an obedient daughter and follow his rules or stop being a child and make decisions for myself? I need your help.

—Trying Hard
Dear Trying: You sound like a sensible, responsible young woman.

However, by your count, you have been dating Kyle since you were 14. We can understand why your father thinks you should broaden your dating experience. Still, you are indeed old enough to make your own decisions — and that means you must be willing to accept the consequences, including the loss of car privileges.

Dear Annie: My daughter is

in third grade. The teacher permits the children to use the bathroom only at lunch or recess, but not during class time. Sometimes the kids eat or drink during the day and cannot wait that long. When my daughter comes home from school, she runs to the toilet. One little girl wet herself in class.

The students are awarded "table points" if they do extra things in the classroom, and they can use these points to go to the bathroom, if need be. But if they are disruptive and must go anyway, their point is penalized. I think this is cruel, but I don't want my daughter to be singled out if I complain to the principal. Am I making too much of this?

—Pee Patrol in Pasadena, Calif.

Dear Pasadena: Children should never be penalized for needing to use the bathroom. If you don't want your daughter singled out, organize a group of concerned parents to approach the principal and insist this outrageous policy be changed immediately.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Littlejohn, a syndicated columnist and editor of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

'Nightmares' aren't from horses

Why do we call bad or scary dreams "nightmares"?

Because of the similarity in form between the second element of the compound "nightmare" and the noun "mare," meaning "a female horse," many people have assumed a connection between the two words.

Actually, however, the "mare" of "nightmare" is a survival of another "mare" found in Old English.

"Mare" was a word in English as early as the 8th century, but it was obsolete by the 18th century. Old English "mare" means "an

evil spirit thought to oppress people during sleep." The compound "nightmare" first appears in Middle English in the 13th century, in a sense much the same as "mare" in Old English.

Not until the 16th century was the meaning of "nightmare" extended to refer to a frightening or oppressive dream, probably from the belief or suggestion that such dreams were caused by evil spirits.

This column was prepared by the editors of Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition. Readers may send questions to Merriam-Webster's Wordwatch, P.O. Box 177, Federal St., Springfield, Mass. 01102.

RELIGION

Big-box orthodox: It's kosher, but ...

BY PETER SLEVIN

The Washington Post

CHICAGO

The sign in the window of the kosher Chinese restaurant looks forlorn. Hand-lettered and slightly faded from the strong winter sun, it is a plea to customers to remain steadfast against a powerful invader.

"Please patronize the real jewels of the community. The *heimische* owned groceries and restaurants," the sign reads. Above it, inside a thin circle is the word *Jewel*. A diagonal line runs through it, the international symbol of opposition.



Washington Post

At Kol Tur Kosher Foods in Chicago, Chayim Knobloch says he has lost "a fairly significant percentage of business." A struggle being played out in north Chicago — pitting family-owned kosher shops against big supermarket chains — is part of a larger play for Jewish shoppers, and the growing ethnic food market nationwide.

Jewel is a well-established supermarket chain that caused no heartache and invited no wrath until a couple of months ago, when it suddenly bought a huge billboard on Chicago's North Side to announce the opening of a gleaming kosher food department at a nearby store.

To Jewel and its parent Albertsons, the move was a straightforward play for customers and profits.

To the family-owned kosher shops along Devon Avenue and in nearby Skokie, it was a threat and an affront.

"I've definitely lost a fairly significant percentage of business," said Chayim Knobloch, proprietor of Kol Tur Kosher Foods, a store and deli located across the street from the billboard. "I've begun trimming ex-

penses and staff."

When it comes to prices, he says, he cannot win.

The struggle being played out in north Chicago is part of a larger play for Jewish shoppers — and the growing ethnic food market — nationwide. Large companies including Albertsons, Wal-Mart, Safeway and Costco are seeking competitive advantage in a crowded sales sector by catering to specialty audiences.

Roughly 18,000 supermarkets carry products prepared according to Orthodox Judaism's dietary code, fueling a market that has been growing by 12 to 15 percent for nearly a decade,

according to Kosher Today, an industry trade paper.

Yakov Yarmove, the Albertsons executive who is overseeing Jewel's kosher project, said it's all about creating a "point of differentiation to make sure we've got a competitive edge. So our stores aren't cookie-cutter."

"Years ago, where the Wal-Marts, Costcos, Targets and Kmart's of the world focused on general merchandise, they're now getting into the food business in a very strong way," Yarmove said. "We're not trying to hurt a local business or a local community, but at the same time we're listening to the local community and their needs."

Shortly after Jewel remodeled its store in September, an influential group of rabbis tried to shore up the kosher stores by mailing an appeal to thousands of Jews, urging them to stick together and shop at the smaller stores that have long served the community.

Devon Avenue, a babel of tongues and nationalities running west from Lake Michigan, has been shedding Jewish shops, bakeries and restaurants since long before Jewel opened its kosher emporium. Narrow storefronts that once housed kosher butchers are now as likely to be an Indian grocery, an Afghan restaurant or a Russian medical supply company.

The reasons for this are as varied as shifting demographics and changing consumer habits. The business reasons are natural as the dynamics of an ancient bazaar.

"We live in a free-market society. People will go to whoever serves them best," said Don Nusbaum, who teaches at a nearby Orthodox boarding school and works part-time at Rosenblum's World of Judaism on Devon. "If that takes away from local business, then maybe the local businesses aren't doing their best."



DALLAS MORNING NEWS/KIT

Chandrahashekar Narayanan, left, and senior priest Janak Shukla lead a prayer service Jan. 2 at the Dallas/Fort Worth Hindu Temple Society in Irving, Texas, for victims of the tsunami in Asia.

Tsunami grief healed by rituals of varied beliefs

BY JEFFREY WEISS

The Dallas Morning News

DALLAS

Members of the Dallas/Fort Worth Hindu Temple held a *deepa puja* Sunday morning. The "prayer of light," honoring victims of southern Asia's earthquake and tsunami, felt something like a candlelight vigil in any church or synagogue.

But the Hindu religious response to massive human tragedy is essentially different. The flower-draped altar and oil candles surrounded by elaborate statues of Indian deities were clearly not part of a Christian or Jewish service. And differences in how the faiths try to explain unimaginable suffering are more than just ritual.

Most of the victims of the disaster follow faith traditions unfamiliar to most Americans: Hindus in India, Muslims in Indonesia and Buddhists in Sri Lanka.

Following catastrophe, the American religious mainstream generally offers a broadly uniform message of comfort: Trust in the loving and just God. He has a meaningful plan for life. We may not understand that meaning until we are with him in the hereafter. Turn to Job and other books in the Bible for clues, if not answers.

But the religious leaders for most of this disaster's victims deliver very different messages.

Buddhism may be the most foreign tradition for Americans. Buddhists have no trouble reconciling worldly tragedy with a loving god, because they don't believe in any god.

"It is not by any particular god" that such tragedies occur, said Dr. Bhante Gunaratana, a Sri Lankan monk who is the president of the Bhavana Society and abbot of its monastery in West Virginia. "A compassionate god would never do anything like this."

Buddhists believe the universe operates on a strict system of karma, moral justice that spans generations. Bad things that happen to a person in this life are the result of bad things the person did in this life — or in myriad earlier lives. That means there are never "innocent victims."

The goal of the kind of Buddhism practiced in Sri Lanka — Theravada — is for the soul to become so enlightened that it escapes the inevitable pain and suffering of the cycle of death and rebirth.

Like Buddhism, Hinduism accepts the idea of

karma that passes from one lifetime to another. But Hinduism, the faith followed by most people in India, also includes a belief in a loving god who affects peoples' lives.

Unlike most Western faiths, Hinduism has no universally recognized authorities, texts or doctrines. Rituals and practice change from region to region.

But Hindus generally agree that there is one all-powerful god who manifests in many forms, male and female. And that god can sometimes send messages through natural events.

Sunday's *deepa puja* in Dallas, attended by more than 100 devotees, included a prayer for the dead to that single, highest god. "The light symbolizes the divine power of God, the brightest and most sacred of all. Similarly, the light that emanates from the departed souls is also powerful and sacred. We pray that these two lights merge, symbolizing the unification of the immortal soul of God."

Indonesia has more Muslims than any other country in the world, almost 210 million. The Indonesian island of Sumatra was closest to the center of the earthquake. Residents of Aceh, the quake-racked northern part, follow a particularly orthodox Muslim practice.

Muslim explanations for tragedy share elements of Jewish and Christian belief. That's not surprising, given Islam shares roots with those faiths. Somewhat altered versions of Jesus, Mary, Moses, Abraham and other figures familiar to Jews and Christians are found in the Quran.

Like Christianity and Judaism, Islam teaches that God is the ruler of the world and has a plan that is expressed even in tragedy, said Imam Yusuf Kavakci of the Dallas Central Mosque in Richardson.

"We believe that everything is in the *taqdir* — destiny — predetermined by Allah, the creator," he said.

The Quran teaches that God tests people through events on Earth, he said. Tragedies can also be a signal from Allah. And innocents who suffer in this life will be rewarded the Day of Judgment with a better position in heaven, he said.

News accounts from the disaster zone show that people are still dealing mostly with survival issues — food, shelter and injury. But they also show funerals and religious services. Even surrounded by unimaginable catastrophe, people are turning to the rituals and routines of faith.

And while each religion teaches different things about tragedy, all attempt to deal with the universal human experience of grief and sorrow.

JAPAN TV (BILINGUAL, SPORTS, MOVIES AND MUSIC)

SUN, JAN. 9

Morning
12:30 NHK Trophy "Go" Tournament (C)
Afternoon
12:30 Go! Go! Son-NHK Trophy "Go" Tournament (C)
1:30 Japan College Rugby Championships Final (1)
1:45 Japan Basketball Championships Final (1)
3:45 Grand Sumo: The 1st Day (1)
5:30 NHK Racing (12)
Evening
7:00 News (1)
7:30 Japan College Rugby Championships Final (42)
8:55 PGA Tour: 2004 BMW Asian Open Highlights (42)
9:00 Classical Music: NHK Symphony Orchestra - Stravinsky's Petroushka (concert: Charles Dutoit) (3)
9:00 Classical Music: Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra - Rakhmaninov's Piano Concerto No. 3 in A minor, Op. 39/Chicak (1)
9:50 NHK Symphony No. 4 in F minor (concert: Yuriy Yevgenyev/Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra - Brahms' Piano Quartet No. 2 in minor, Op. 25 (concert: Sir Simon Rattle) (3)
11:30 Friends (42)
12:30 Soccer: Argentina - Fiorentina vs. Lazio (6)
12:50 Grand Sumo Digest (1)
1:15 Japanese Major Leagues: Ichiro/Tomokazu Oka (1)
1:40 NFL Digest (6)
2:40 Grand Sumo Digest (1)(1r)

MON, JAN. 10

Morning
12:30 Honolulu Marathon (6)
Afternoon
10:30 Part-Dollar Rally (12)
1:55 Japan Men's Basketball Championships Final (1)
2:00 Japan Men's Basketball Championships Final (42)
2:30 Japan Men's High School Soccer Final (42)
3:50 NHK Sports Center (1)
3:55 2005 NBC Cup SKU Jump (6)
4:50 News (1)
Evening
7:00 News (1)
7:30 News (1)
8:00 Nidia (42)
12:30 Grand Sumo Digest (1)
1:25 PGA Tour: Mercedes Championships - Final Round (1)
2:05 Grand Sumo Digest (1)(1r)

WOWOW

SUN, JAN. 9

Morning
8:15 British-Italian Movie (2001): The Prince of Love (1:55)
Afternoon
2:00 U.S. Movie (2001): American Outlaws (1:40)
3:40 U.S. Movie (2002): Minority Report (2:00)
Evening
6:10 U.S. Movie (2003): Daredevil (1:40)
8:00 U.S. Movie (2003): S.W.A.T. (2:00)
9:00 U.S. Movie (2000): Dracula 2000 (1:40)
10:10 U.S. Movie (2002): Heavyweight Champion - Boxing: Heavyweight 12-Round Match - Hasim Rahman vs. Saul Martinez (1:40)
2:00 Spanish Soccer: Liga Espanola
4:55 Spanish Soccer: Liga Espanola

JAPAN TV (BS1/NHK SATELLITE) (BILINGUAL AND SPORTS)

SUN, JAN. 9

Morning
9:10 2004 PGA Tour Highlights (r)
9:10 World News
9:10 What's On Japan (r)
10:10 PGA Golf: Mercedes Championships - Final Round
Afternoon
10:10 CNN News
12:40 Weekly NFL
1:30 2004-05 Bicycle Track World Cup (r)
4:10 Documentary: Rwanda Genocide (r)
5:10 X-Games
5:30 CNN News
Evening
7:00 NHK Goro Kano Cam International - 8th Judo Tournament
9:30 Sports Weeknight
12:10 CNN News
12:20 BS Sports Weekly (r)
1:10 X-Games
1:35 Grand Sumo Digest
2:10 2004-05 Biathlon World Cup Final (r)
4:10 U.S. News
5:00 PGA Golf
5:40 Football Mundial

JAPAN TV (BS11/NHK SATELLITE) (BILINGUAL, SPORTS, MOVIES AND MUSIC)

SUN, JAN. 9

Afternoon
1:00 Grand Sumo Tournament, 1st Day (bilingual after 3:50 p.m.)
Evening
7:00 NHK News
8:50 NHK Symphony Orchestra: Charles Dutoit
10:00 TV Series: ER IX
12:00 Movie Director Terry Gilliam
12:58 U.S. Movie (1991): The Fisher King (2:22)

MON, JAN. 10

Morning
10:00 Classical Music: Steven Isserlis Concert

TUE, JAN. 11

Morning
10:00 Classical Music: Midori Nohara Piano Recital

WED, JAN. 12

Morning
10:00 Classical Music: Mitsuko Shirai and Hartmut Holl Concert

2:58 Star Trek: DS9 (8)
4:00 Grand Sumo Digest (1)(1r)

TUE, JAN. 11

Morning
10:00 Ladies Golf Lesson (42)
Afternoon
12:30 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (12)
12:30 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (12)
1:30 U.S. Movie (1980): Stand By Me (2:00)(12)
3:12 Grand Sumo Digest: The 3rd Day (1)
5:50 News (6)
7:00 News (1)
7:30 What I Like About You (3)
8:00 The Simpsons (42)(starts)
10:00 News (1)
12:15 Grand Sumo Digest (1)
12:30 The 3rd Day (1)
4:00 Grand Sumo Digest (1)(1r)

WED, JAN. 12

Afternoon
12:30 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (12)
1:30 Canadian-German Movie (2002): Liberty Stands Still (2:00)(12)
3:12 Grand Sumo Digest: The 4th Day (1)
5:50 News (6)
7:00 News (1)
7:30 Love Over Bubble (3)(r)
7:55 Simple Rules (12)
8:00 U.S. Movie (2001): AI: Artificial Intelligence (2:54)(6)
10:00 News (1)
10:00 America's Top 40 (42)
12:15 Grand Sumo Digest (1)
2:30 Yumilum Symphony House (4)
3:12 The 3rd Day (1)
3:30 NFL Teams To Be Determined (4)
4:00 Grand Sumo Digest (1)(1r)

THU, JAN. 13

Morning
6:45 Between the Lions (3)
7:30 Disney (12)

Afternoon
1:30 U.S. Movie (2002): Cross Express (2:00)(12)
3:12 Grand Sumo: The 5th Day (1)
5:50 News (6)
7:00 News (1)
7:30 Disney (12)
12:15 Grand Sumo Digest (1)
1:30 Soccer: Serie A/Premier/Liga Digest (8)
2:10 NFL Club (4)
2:17 Best Hits U.S.A. (10)
2:40 Code Name: ET/ETNY (4)
4:00 Grand Sumo Digest (1)(1r)

FRI, JAN. 14

Morning
7:30 Disney (12)
Afternoon
1:30 Soccer: Serie A/Premier/Liga Digest (8)
2:10 NFL Club (4)
2:17 Best Hits U.S.A. (10)
2:40 Code Name: ET/ETNY (4)
4:00 Grand Sumo Digest (1)(1r)
5:50 News (1)
6:30 Planet Rugby (42)
9:03 U.S. Movie (2001): Driven (1:51)(4)
1:40 PGA Tour: Sony Open in Hawaii (8)
1:25 Grand Sumo Digest (1)
2:40 CBS Documentary (6)
2:00 U.S. Movie (1980): Conan's Eleven (8)
3:10 U.S. Movie (1994): Clifford (1:50)(12)
4:00 Grand Sumo Digest (1)(1r)

SAT, JAN. 15

Afternoon
1:00 Traditional Arts of Japan: Dance (3)(r)
3:05 Grand Sumo: The 7th Day (1)
4:00 NFL Cup Ski Jump (10)
4:30 Between the Lions (12)(1r)
Evening
7:00 News (1)
7:30 U.S. Movie (2002): Ocean's Eleven (2:19)(8)
12:45 Grand Sumo Digest (1)
1:10 L.B. WVI (1)
2:10 French Movie (1984): Les Parapluies de Cherbourg (1:58)(6)
1:10 PGA Tour: Sony Open in Hawaii (8)
3:20 U.S. Movie (1997): Ray & Bone (1:30)(12)
4:00 Grand Sumo Digest (1)(1r)

MTV

SUN, JAN. 9

Morning
6:00 Wake Up! (C)
8:00 Christina Aguilera Concert Special
8:30 Making the Video: Gwyneth
9:00 Rock On
9:30 Series: The Best of U.S.A. (10)
10:00 Rock
11:00 YATTA
Afternoon
12:00 Beavis and Butt-Head
12:30 Biography: EXILE
3:00 Making the Video: Gwyneth
3:30 Series: The Best of U.S.A. (10)
3:30 JAPAN.COM News Chart Top 20
Evening
6:00 World Chart Express Powered by HMV
8:00 U.S. Top 20 with Super D
10:00 ENIMEN Special: Specialty Convention
10:00 News: Now/Making the Video
10:00 The Music
10:00 Live: The Music
10:00 LIVE: KELS
2:00 Classic 80's
3:00 Fresh
3:30 After Hours

MON, JAN. 10

Morning
6:00 Wake Up! (C)
7:00 M Size Friday
8:00 M Size Friday
9:00 M Size Friday
10:00 Pure Music
11:00 Pure Music
Afternoon
12:00 Rock
1:00 The Music
1:30 Choice
2:00 Pure Music
3:00 After Hours
3:30 Beavis and Butt-Head
5:00 Music Download Chart Top 10

8:00 U.S. Movie (1947): Miracle on 34th Street (1:40)
9:40 U.S. Movie (2002): Dragonfly (1:45)
11:40 Angels in America #5
Afternoon
1:00 Spanish Movie (1999): All About My Mother (1:45)
2:50 U.S. Movie (1992): A League of Their Own (2:10)
Evening
6:00 U.S. Movie (1973): Paper Moon (1:50)
10:00 Swiss Movie (2002): War Photographer (1:50)
11:40 U.S. Movie (2003): Robert Capa: In Love and War (1:30)

THU, JAN. 13

Morning
7:30 Covidad #16
10:00 Spanish-French Movie (2001): Sin Notificaciones de Clase (1:57)
11:15 CNN News
Afternoon
1:15 CNN News
2:15 PBS Newshour
3:15 CNN News
4:15 Economic News
5:15 Asian News
Evening
6:15 CNN News
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SERBIA and MONTENEGRO
TURKEY GERMANY



Term III Registration: January 3 – 14 at most Education Centers



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Since UMUC began offering classes in Asia almost 50 years ago, its greatest single strength has been the quality of its faculty. Here are brief profiles of three of our faculty members who teach regularly in Japan.

PAMELA CARLTON

Dr. Carlton is a veteran of UMUC overseas, in both Europe and Asia, and has taught in Germany, Spain, Belgium, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Italy, Iceland, Egypt, Japan, Okinawa, and Korea. She holds a B.A. in psychology and a Ph.D. in clinical and community psychology, both from the University of South Carolina at Columbia, and is a licensed clinical psychologist. Dr. Carlton taught at Columbia College in South Carolina, Midlands Technical College in South Carolina, and the University of South Carolina. Her professional experience includes more than ten years in private practice, and positions in such areas as parent and child development; individual, family and group psychotherapy; and mental disability determination.

JOHN KLOCK

Mr. Klock holds a B.S. in range management from Colorado State University, and an M.A. in international affairs, with specialization in Southeast Asia, and an M.S. in botany, both from Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. He has taught at Ohio University, and at the secondary level. Mr. Klock has extensive employment and research experience in the Philippines, where he was a Peace Corps volunteer and participated in the development of an environmental awareness program. He also has served with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management in Colorado and Wyoming. He has several publications; some of his research has focused on forest management practices among the Ifugao tribal group in the Philippines. Mr. Klock first taught with the Asian Division from 1993 to 1997, at sites in Korea and Okinawa. He rejoined the faculty in 1999 and again in 2002, teaching in Misawa, Iwakuni, and Sasebo, and since 1999 in the UMUC distance education program.

MERVIN WHEALY

Dr. Whealy earned a B.A. and M.A. in education from Fresno State College, an M.Div. from Southeastern Baptist Seminary, an M.A. in history from Wake Forest Seminary, and a Ph.D. in history from the University of California at Santa Barbara. Experienced with UMUC, he initially joined the Asian Division, later taught in Europe, and rejoined UMUC in Asia in 1993. He has taught at several other institutions including Chapman College, Hancok College, Orange Coast College, Santa Ana College and the University of Nevada at Reno, as well as Towson State University in Baltimore, Maryland. Dr. Whealy has taught for UMUC at numerous locations in Germany, Italy, the Azores, Japan, Korea, Kwajalein, and Okinawa.

For further background on these and other faculty members, and a wide range of information on courses and programs, check the UMUC Asia Web site at:

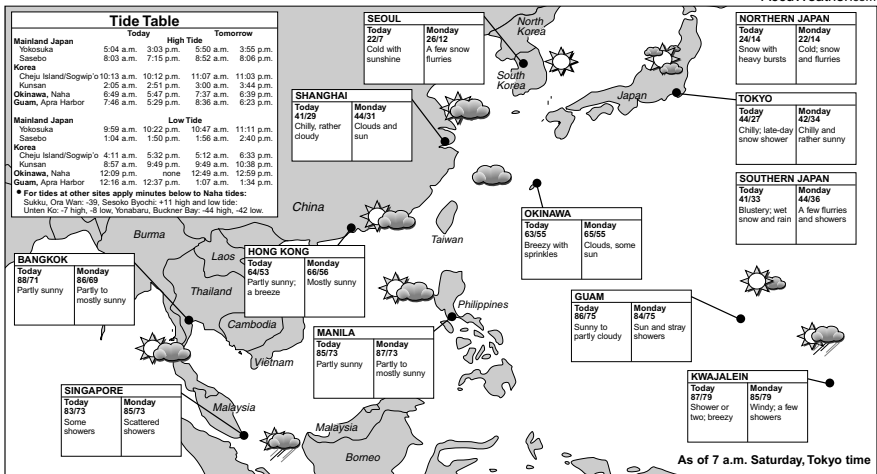
<http://www.ad.umuc.edu>

Term III classes begin January 17.

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The Pacific Forecast



As of 7 a.m. Saturday, Tokyo time

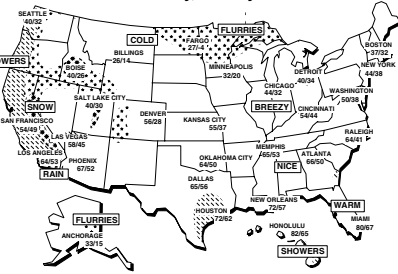
Extended Forecasts

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|--|
| TOKYO Tuesday: Partly sunny, high 46, low 34. Wednesday: Partly sunny, high 45, low 33. | KADENA Tuesday: Mostly cloudy, high 67, low 57. Wednesday: Showers, high 65, low 55. | SEOUL Tuesday: Sunny, high 25, low 10. Wednesday: Partly sunny, high 29, low 14. | MANILA Tuesday: Partly sunny, high 87, low 75. Wednesday: Partly sunny, high 87, low 75. | HAGATNA Tuesday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 86, low 73. Wednesday: Partly sunny, high 86, low 75. |
|--|---|---|---|--|

Friday's USA Temperatures

| CITY | HIGH/LOW | CITY | HIGH/LOW |
|----------------|----------|----------------|----------|
| Albuquerque | 43/32 | Los Angeles | 58/50 |
| Amarillo | 48/28 | Little Rock | 38/32 |
| Anchorage | 30/16 | Louisville | 39/32 |
| Ashville | 56/46 | Miami | 80/68 |
| Baltimore | 50/36 | Milwaukee | 27/18 |
| Birmingham | 62/50 | Nashville | 46/41 |
| Bismarck | 17/4 | New York | 45/34 |
| Boise | 37/30 | Omaha | 25/9 |
| Boston | 42/26 | Orlando | 80/60 |
| Brownsville | 65/54 | Philadelphia | 46/34 |
| Buffalo | 33/28 | Phoenix | 60/46 |
| Burlington | 31/19 | Pittsburgh | 39/32 |
| Charleston, SC | 74/57 | Portland, OR | 40/36 |
| Charlotte | 65/51 | Portland, ME | 39/20 |
| Cleveland | 37/29 | Salt Lake City | 34/30 |
| Columbus, OH | 39/32 | St. Louis | 36/23 |
| Duluth | 19/3 | San Antonio | 60/40 |
| El Paso | 58/38 | San Diego | 60/54 |
| Hartford | 38/28 | San Juan | 82/72 |
| Helena | 20/10 | Tampa | 80/62 |
| Indianapolis | 34/26 | Tulsa | 40/20 |
| Jacksonville | 80/57 | Washington | 49/38 |
| Kansas City | 30/16 | Wichita | 34/18 |

Sunday, January 09



U.S. Extended Forecast

A storm system churning off the Northwest coast will push rain and mountain snow into Oregon and northern California on Sunday. The southwesterly flow around the system will continue to stream moisture into the Southwest causing rain to soak Southern California and snow to fall over the Rockies and northern Arizona. Meanwhile, a low pressure center will cause flurries to fly across the northern Plains and Great Lakes. After some morning fog breaks in the Southeast, much of the East will enjoy a dry end to the weekend. The storm system off the Northwest coast will move inland on Monday creating another wet day for the region; however, some sun will return to the West Coast on Tuesday.

Sunday's Pacific Temperatures

| CITY | HIGH/LOW | CITY | HIGH/LOW |
|--------------|----------|-----------|----------|
| Bangkok | 88/71 | Sasebo NB | 24/14 |
| Beijing | 32/16 | Sapporo | 22/7 |
| Camp Casey | 24/6 | Seoul | 41/29 |
| Christchurch | 56/39 | Shanghai | 83/73 |
| Diego Garcia | 85/75 | Singapore | 82/72 |
| Hagatna | 86/75 | Sydney | 30/16 |
| Hanoi | 67/55 | Taipei | 62/49 |
| Hong Kong | 64/53 | Tokyo | 44/27 |
| Honolulu | 82/65 | | |

Sunday's World Temperatures

| CITY | HIGH/LOW | CITY | HIGH/LOW |
|-----------|----------|----------------|----------|
| Acapulco | 92/74 | Budapest | 44/35 |
| Athens | 58/50 | Buenos Aires | 86/66 |
| Auckland | 69/54 | Cairo | 60/40 |
| Baghdad | 60/31 | Cancun | 81/68 |
| Barbados | 81/65 | Cape Town | 73/55 |
| Barcelona | 59/46 | Geneva | 44/41 |
| Berlin | 42/34 | Istanbul | 52/41 |
| Bermuda | 73/61 | Jerusalem | 49/34 |
| Brussels | 45/40 | Johnsburg | 61/53 |
| | | Moscow | |
| | | Osaka | 45/16 |
| | | Nairobi | 82/54 |
| | | New Delhi | 72/43 |
| | | Oslo | 34/25 |
| | | Paris | 44/40 |
| | | Rio de Janeiro | 84/73 |
| | | Rome | 57/46 |
| | | St. Petersburg | 32/19 |
| | | Stockholm | 36/27 |
| | | Warsaw | 39/28 |



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Singh back in form with early Mercedes rings lead

BY DOUG FERGUSON
The Associated Press

KAPALUA, Hawaii — No one is ever sure what the first round of the PGA Tour season will bring, so Vijay Singh just wanted to make sure he finished under par and kept within range of the leaders.

After making seven birdies and missing a half-dozen other good chances, Singh wound up with a 66 at the Mercedes Championships and had a one-shot lead over Craig Parry.

A new season brought a familiar name to the top of the leaderboard back Thursday at Kapalua. It was an early statement from the 41-year-old Fijian that he might have yet another chapter to write in his amazing career.

"That's the way he's been playing," Tiger Woods said after a 68. "It's a continuation of it."

Singh had said he wanted to get off to a strong start, especially coming off a season in which he won nine times and shattered the PGA Tour earnings record with nearly \$11 million. He said he wanted to stake his ground, and remind the rest of his peers that he's still the man to beat.

But in another sign that his game is quickly rounding into form, Woods hit his driver on just about every hole and was in the short grass most of the time. A year ago, his opening tee shot sailed so far to the right on the expansive fairways of the Plantation Course that it also disappeared into waist-high weeds.

He missed the fairway again this year — but only because it was so long (367 yards) and straight that it ran through the fairway and down a slope of thick rough. Solid from tee-to-green, Woods suffered the same problem as just about everyone at Kapalua.

The course is so lush that extra grass means extra grain on the greens, and that makes it difficult to judge the proper pace and the right line. He missed eight birdie putts inside 18 feet.

"I've never seen them like this before, where they're this slow and this grainy," Woods said. "If you look at that leaderboard, you can see the guys aren't making a bunch of putts, because there's really no wind out there and the greens are soft. You would expect at least four or five guys to be 7 under par or better."

"But it's not going to happen with greens like this. It's just too hard to make putts."

There's still three days to see if he's right, but the leaderboard did seem to indicate that scoring wasn't that easy.

Parry was one of three players on the PGA Tour who didn't have a three-putt last year, but he took three whacks on the par-5 15th and had to settle for par, slowing his rise up the leaderboard. He finished with a 15-foot birdie and was at 67.

Sergio Garcia, Stewart Cink and Jonathan Kaye joined Woods at 68. Eight players were another shot behind, including Ernie Els, Steve Flesch, Chad Campbell and Adam Scott.

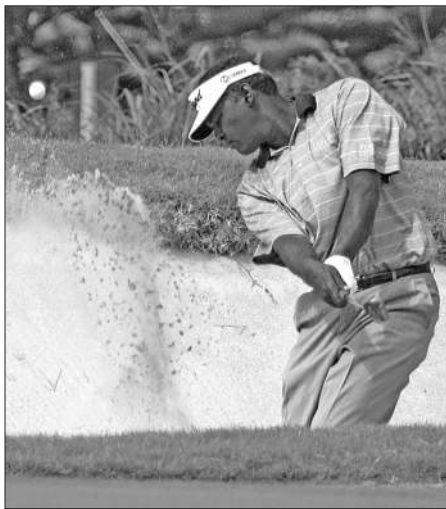
"Like everyone else, probably a little struggling on the greens because of the strength of grain," Flesch said. "The greens roll great, but it's just a wily grass that we are not accustomed to much."

What everyone is accustomed to seeing is Singh's name atop the leaderboard.

He missed a 12-foot putt on the par-5 19th and made the turn at 2 under, four shots out of the lead. Then came a sand wedge into 6 feet for birdie, and an 8-iron into 4 feet for birdie, and another sand wedge to 6 feet for birdie.

Woods also was making a move and was tied for Singh along the back nine, but he kept putting the ball in tough spots on the green, even though the length was rarely more than 15 feet.

"It's only the first day," Singh said. "You can't be too concerned about the leaderboard. At the same time, you make sure you keep up the pace."



Vijay Singh hits out of the practice-green sand trap before starting the Mercedes Championships on Thursday in Maui, Hawaii. The tournament marks the start of the PGA season. Singh picked up where he left off last year, taking the first round lead with a 66.

RB Gore second Hurricane to enter NFL Draft in as many days

The Associated Press

MIAMI — Miami running back Frank Gore is skipping his senior season and will enter the NFL Draft, becoming the second Hurricane in as many days to make that jump.

"I think it's time to move on," Gore said Friday.

He has already signed with agent David Levine.

Roscoe Parrish, Miami's leading receiver this season, made his decision to leave school on Thursday.

Miami coach Larry Coker was among those who said Gore's stock would considerably rise if he stayed for 2005. Gore had two major knee injuries in college, and was occasionally slowed by knee trouble this season. He is still had a team-best 945 yards, capping a career in which he ran for 1,975 yards and 17 touchdowns.

Gore has a 2-year-old son and a mother who is seriously ill with kidney disease, and he wants to begin providing for them. He knows a strong 2005 season would likely translate into a more lucrative NFL contract, while another knee injury would probably end his pro plans.

Ultimately, Gore — who missed the 2002 season from torn right knee ligaments, then most

Sports briefs

of the 2003 campaign with a similar injury to his left knee — opted against taking a risk.

"Me and my mom talked (Thursday) night, and then I just sat down and made my decision," said Gore, who acknowledged that his mother's wish for him to leave school early played a huge role in his choice.

Gore also thanked Coker and other Miami coaches for "not forgetting about me when I got hurt," and said he believed they had his best interests in mind when advising him to stay for the 2005 season.

Gore becomes the 10th Miami player to leave school early for the draft in the last four seasons.

With no progress to report, NHL cancels meeting

NEW YORK — After labor negotiations broke down last night, there was nothing left for the NHL and the players' association to talk about.

Now the league doesn't even have any news to share with its board of governors.

A meeting scheduled for next week between Commissioner

Gary Bettman and executives from all 30 teams was called off Thursday because the planned update session proved to be pointless.

"Since there has been no progress since we scheduled it, it's not surprising that we chose to cancel it," NHL chief legal officer Bill Daly told The Associated Press on Thursday night.

Owners and players haven't sat down at the bargaining table since last month, when the sides met twice within six days.

"There was clearly a hope, if not an expectation, that we'd be further along than we are," Daly said. "We were hopeful that progress could continue to be made, that hopefully union would come forward with a new proposal."

"I think that is appropriate given the fact that they rejected our counterproposal after only a matter of hours of consideration. The fact that they didn't is unfortunate."

The board of governors hasn't met since September, when Bettman imposed the lockout that reached its 113th day on Thursday and has forced the cancellation of 571 regular-season games and the 2005 All-Star Game.

There was speculation that Bettman might emerge from next Fri-

day's scheduled meeting either with an announcement that this season had been called off, or with a final date for saving the season.

"There's not going to be a drop-dead day," Daly said. "We believe the only important thing is a negotiated agreement that will work for the sport and the industry long term."

New Mexico State coach Henson hospitalized

LAS CRUCES, N.M. — New Mexico State coach Lou Henson was hospitalized Thursday with pneumonia and he won't return to the sideline this weekend in a wheelchair as planned.

Henson, stricken in September with viral encephalitis, was scheduled to coach for the first time this season on Saturday night when New Mexico State hosts North Texas.

"We expect him to make a full recovery, but he's obviously not coming on the bench this weekend," school spokesman Sean Johnson said Thursday.

Henson, who will turn 73 on Monday, was to attend practice on Thursday afternoon but became ill and went to a Las Cruces hospital, Johnson said.

Henson is 21 wins short of becoming only the fifth Division I coach with 800 career victories.

The viral encephalitis — an acute inflammatory disease of the brain — caused paralysis in his right leg. He's still unable to walk on his own because he has only slight movement in that leg.

UConn rings stolen from Auriemma's car

HARTFORD, Conn. — Connecticut women's basketball coach Geno Auriemma is without four stolen national championship rings even though a suspected buyer was arrested Thursday.

Police said two teenagers took the rings Nov. 28 and sold them for \$150. Authorities say the rings are worth about \$800 each.

Auriemma said he had the rings in his briefcase for a university photo shoot. He left the briefcase in his car, parked in a Manchester commuter lot while he went to dinner, police said.

The teens, 13 and 15, broke into several cars in the lot that night.

Police arrested the teens last month after people reported seeing the boys wearing the rings.

Investigators didn't announce the theft until Thursday, when they arrested Javier Lago of East Hartford on charges of larceny and risk of injury to the juveniles. Lago was arraigned Thursday and was being held on \$20,000 bail. He is due back in court Feb. 9.

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Depleted Duke still finding ways to pull out victories

Key injuries aren't slowing No. 5 Blue Devils

BY KEITH PARSONS

The Associated Press

DURHAM, N.C. — DeMarcus Cousins came to Duke as a can't-miss backcourt prospect, the career scoring leader in California prep history.

About a third of the way through his first season with the Blue Devils, the 6-foot-3 Nelson gets most of his playing time at power forward, where he often goes against players 5 or 6 inches taller.

"I never expected to do that, that's for sure," Nelson said.

Blue Devils coach Mike Krzyzewski has no choice. With forwards Shaivik Randolph (mono-nucleosis) and Reggie Love (broken foot) out for the next few weeks, someone needs to help center Shelden Williams in the paint.

Junior Lee Melchioni got his first start last Wednesday night against Princeton, and Nelson and former walk-on Patrick Johnson were the only other options. Thanks to some attrition in the offseason, fifth-ranked Duke starts with only eight recruited players anyway, leaving very little margin for injuries.

Yet that's exactly what has happened, even if Coach K isn't completely sure.

"We have some injuries, but

come on, we're playing basketball," he said. "If we make excuses because of injuries, we're complete idiots. This is the hand we got, so let's play it."

So far, so good: The Blue Devils are 10-0 for the fourth time in the past five seasons, including victories over Michigan State and Oklahoma. After playing Temple on Saturday, they get into the bulk of their Atlantic Coast Conference schedule next week with a trip to North Carolina State.

That's the first of 13 straight league games.

"Our team right now is coming together tremendously, and when Shav and Reggie come back, we'll have other guys with game experience, and we'll be a force to reckon with," Melchioni said.

Despite the confidence shown by Krzyzewski and Melchioni, the Blue Devils do have some problems — back-to-back victories over Clemson and Princeton, they averaged only 61 points, down from about 85 in the first eight games.

The style of play in the past two clearly has been methodical and dictated mostly by the opponent, but Duke still has shot only 37 percent. J.J. Redick scored 21 points against Princeton — on three baskets and a 14-foot 14 effort at the free throw line — and he was the

only player in double figures for the Blue Devils.

"I think it's important for us to come out and play better offense on Saturday," Redick said. "I'd be great for us to get going."

They need players such as Nelson and Melchioni to step in and perform up to the level of the others, something Nelson gave glimpses of Wednesday night.

When the Tigers closed within seven early in the second half, he stepped outside and made a three-pointer, then added a steal and a dunk to boost Duke's lead back to 13.

Nelson finished with seven points and nine rebounds.

"Unfortunately, our numbers are going down, and players are getting hurt," he said. "For me individually, it's an opportunity for me to help our team win and to keep this train rolling."

"Having this responsibility on my shoulders is something I've always looked forward to, something I've always had playing basketball."

Nelson's attitude is exactly what Krzyzewski wants to see from his players.

"You don't become a winning team by rationalizing and making excuses," he said. "You become a winner by defeating rationalization and having no excuses. That's the way we're going to run our program."

Duke head coach Mike Krzyzewski examines Reggie Love's foot after he broke it last week. Injuries have plagued No. 5 Duke this season.

Zags open title defense with win over Santa Clara

The Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Derek Raivio is glad he prepared himself in the pre-season for the point guards of the West Coast Conference by facing Oklahoma State's John Lucas, Georgia Tech's Jarrett Jack and Dee Brown of top-ranked Illinois.

Gonzaga's star sophomore might just be establishing himself as one of the country's elite at his position.

Raivio scored a career-high 32 points, made six three-pointers and hit all 10 of his free throws, and the 11th-ranked Bulldogs opened defense of their West Coast Conference title with a heated 91-87 victory over Santa Clara on Thursday night.

"Playing against all the top guards in the nation has been a great experience," Raivio said. "It got me prepared for whoever comes, me because I've already played against the best."

Adam Morrison added 18 points and Erroll Knight had 11 points and eight rebounds in the first game for the Zags (11-2) since they beat their seven-game winning streak snapped with a 63-61 loss to Missouri on Dec. 30.

They sent the Broncos to their fifth

Top 25 roundup

straight loss. Gonzaga has won nine in a row in the series and the last five at the Leovey Center, where Santa Clara's students packed the sold-out arena more than an hour before game time to taunt the visitors during warm-ups.

Doron Perkins scored 18 of his 22 points in the first half for Santa Clara (-79), but went cold after halftime. He scored nine straight — with a four-point play and a three-pointer — to almost single-handedly get the Broncos back in the game after they fell behind by 15. He also had nine rebounds and four steals, and drew the assignment of defending Morrison, who at 6-foot-8 has a 6-inch height advantage.

"I feel like every time the win is right there and they take it away," Santa Clara's Kyle Bailey said of playing the Zags. "I'll get it figured out. I'd hate to come back for a sixth year just to beat them."

No. 9 Georgia Tech 80, Miami 68: At Atlanta, Will Byrum scored 21 points and Georgia Tech routed Miami's Atlantic Coast Conference debut.

The Yellow Jackets (10-2, 1-0) bound

back on an overtime loss at No. 2 Kansas, a game in which second-leading scorer B.J. Elder injured a hamstring that could keep him out through this weekend.

Lon Schenker added 15 points for Georgia Tech, while Jarrett Jack had 14 points and nine rebounds.

Guillermo Diaz had 27 points for the Hurricanes (9-3, 0-1), who moved from the Big East to the ACC this season. They had an eight-game winning streak snapped.

No. 22 Washington 84, Southern California 59: At Los Angeles, Tre Simmons scored 22 points and the Huskies won their ninth straight. Washington (13-1, 3-0 Pac-10) is off to its best start since 1982 when it won 10 in a row.

Freshman Nick Young scored 18 of his 20 points in the second half for the Trojans (7-7), who have yet to win a Pac-10 game under interim coach Jim Saia. The 0-3 mark is their worst conference start since they began 0-4 in 1991, but still made the NCAA tournament.

No. 13 Arizona 87, California 67: Channing Frye had 20 points and eight rebounds to lead the visiting Wildcats to their ninth straight victory.

Hassan Adams added 16 points and Ivan Radenovic had 14 points and seven rebounds for Arizona (12-2, 2-0 Pac-10), which beat the Bears for the 11th time in the last 12 meetings.

Richard Midgley scored 14 points to lead California (8-5, 1-2).

No. 15 Texas 74, Memphis 67: P.J. Tucker scored 18 points, four in the final 42 seconds, to lead the host Longhorns (11-2). He had a fastbreak dunk after a turnover to make it 71-67, and then added two free throws with 17 seconds left.

Freshman Darius Washington had 23 points for the Tigers (7-7), who have lost five of seven.

No. 23 Cincinnati 83, DePaul 54: At Cincinnati, Jason Maxiell scored 19 points for the Bearcats, who have won 26 of 29 over DePaul, including 14 straight on the Bearcats' home court.

Quemont Greer, who leads the conference in scoring at 24.1 points per game, had 12 on 4-of-13 shooting for the Blue Demons (8-4, 0-1). That ended his school-record streak of eight consecutive games with at least 20 points.

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Kinnick boys win battle of Kanto unbeaten

Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — Nile C. Kinnick's boys continue to rule the Japan high-school basketball roost.

The Red Devils' big three — Travis Ekmark, Leonard Lynce and Paul Ergus — each scored in double figures and Kinnick used strong defense in the second half to pull away from Christian Academy In Japan 76-51.

What may be worse for Japan boys basketball than Kinnick imposing 9-0 is that the team's best basketball may be yet to come, as coach Nathan Brewster predicts.

"I don't see us playing the best that we can yet," he said. "We put it on CAJ in the fourth quarter, but I know there are things we can do better. I know we can improve. We haven't put together four full quarters. I keep telling the guys, to be a championship team, we have to put a whole game together."

What has come together, Brewster said, is the players' grasp of his system, particularly on defense. The Red Devils threw numerous looks at CAJ with their 1-2-1 zone press and various half-court zone and man-to-man defenses.

"We really frustrated them with that," Brewster said.

Kinnick improved to 5-0 in the Kanto Plain Association of Secondary Schools.

"We're rolling now," Brewster said. "We're doing things that we couldn't do last year. We have three starters back and my system is familiar. They're starting to get it. Last year, we were still learning it, we were always a second late and a foot short. This year, it's starting to come together."

Ekmark had a triple-double with 14 points, 12 rebounds and 11 assists. Ergus added 20 points and 10 rebounds and had Lynce 23 points and 10 rebounds. Dane Masuda and Andy Carrico each scored 11 for the Knights (7-1).

Kadena wrestlers keep Kubasaki pinned

KADENA AIR BASE, Okinawa

Prep roundup

— Now, it's the Kadena Panthers who are sporting the wrestling winning streak.

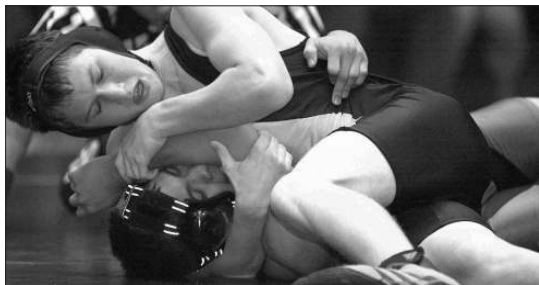
Dating to the last regular-season dual meet of 2002-03, Kadena has won six of its eight past dual meets against the Kubasaki Dragons. Prior to that point, Kubasaki had won every dual meet between the two teams since Kadena High opened for the 1981-82 season.

"I'd rather not think about it. I'd rather go one match at a time," Kadena coach Steve Schrock said. "(But) I'm very proud of them."

Veterans led the way for Kadena in Friday's 34-20 victory over Kubasaki at the Panther Pit, with 2002 Far East 101-pound champion Brendan Stanford, now at 141 pounds, and Jake Bloom (135) and defending Far East 168-pound champion Devon Copeland (180) scoring technical falls.

Impressing Schrock was Kubasaki newcomer Steve Courtney, who beat Austin Copeland by technical fall at 148 pounds.

"I haven't seen a kid that strong



DAVE ORINAUER/Stars and Stripes

Brandon McCullough of the Kadena Panthers cradles Carl Tapang of the Kubasaki Dragons during the 129-pound bout in Friday's Okinawa Activities Council wrestling meet at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa. McCullough pinned Tapang in 1 minute, 44 seconds and the Panthers beat the Dragons 34-20.

technically since Justin Miller," Schrock said of the Far East's only four-time weight-class champion, out of Kubasaki, 1996-99. "He's a sound wrestler. He's fun to watch."

Kubasaki kept it close, matching Kadena pin for pin, until Kadena's Brandon McCullough pinned Carl Tapang at 129 pounds. The Panthers never trailed again.

"I have a lot of respect" for Kubasaki coach Terry Chumley, Schrock said. "She's a great coach and she'll put a competitive team out there."

Taeegu girls win critical basketball showdown in Korea

CAMP WALKER, South Korea — Keep Margaret Nurse off the boards, Michelle Chandler instructed her Taeegu American girls basketball team.

The Warriors did just that, bottling up the 6-foot-4 Osan American junior center en route to a 51-32 victory Friday.

Taeegu improved to 6-0 in Korean-American Interscholastic Activities Conference play and 6-6 overall, while the Cougars fell to 3-2. The two DODDS-Korea powers are expected to contend for the Far East Class A Tournament title next month in Pusan.

It was Taeegu's first victory in

eight seasons against the Cougars, who dressed only six players because of injuries and illnesses.

Nurse scored 18 of the Cougars' 32 points, but most of those came when she made moves to the basket or took a pass inside, not on the offensive glass.

"I asked them not to let Margaret get offensive rebounds," Chandler said. "They kept her off the boards. They did a good job."

The Warriors girls mixed things up defensively, showing Osan a variety of looks. But while Taeegu ran roughshod in the first half, outscoring Osan 30-11, "we came out flat in the third quarter," Chandler said.

"We have to play four full quarters," she said. "We didn't come out as intense. We have to keep our intensity up."

Especially the next time the two teams meet: Jan. 22 at Osan Air Base.

Among the Osan players who should be back in the lineup are starting point guard Sharon Kroening and forward Mina Davis, who transferred to North Carolina last spring but is returning to finish her senior season.



DAVE ORINAUER/Stars and Stripes

Cameron Daugherty of the Kubasaki Dragons gets the upper hand on Zach Rinehart during the 108-pound bout on Friday at Kadena High School. Daugherty pinned Rinehart in 1 minute, 47 seconds.

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Manning unanimous pick for AP All-Pro

BY BARRY WILLNER

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Peyton Manning was unstoppable on the field this season, and in the AP All-Pro voting, too.

The record-setting Indianapolis Colts quarterback was the unanimous choice Thursday for The Associated Press 2004 NFL All-Pro Team. Manning received all 48 first-place votes from a nationwide panel of writers and reporters, the only player to sweep the voting this year.

After sharing the MVP award with Steve McNair last year, Manning reached a new level in '04. "Last year was fun," Manning said. "This year was more fun because the things we wanted to do, we came out, worked on them and got them done."

Manning broke Dan Marino's 20-year-old record for touchdown passes in a season with 49, and shattered Steve Young's passer rating mark with a 121.1. Indeed, he would have to go 0-4-20 with five interceptions in the final game to not break the record.

Manning also was the AP All-Pro quarterback in 2003, when he was the co-MVP with McNair of the New AP Most Valuable Player will be announced on Monday.

Surprisingly, despite the Colts' prolific offense, Manning was their only All-Pro on that side of

the ball. Defensive end Dwight Freeney, the NFL sacks leader with 16, made it on defense.

The AFC's dominance this season was evident on the AP All-Pro team, with 19 players from that conference and just 10 from the NFC.

Pittsburgh, with a 15-1 regular-season mark, had the most AFC players: guard Alan Faneca, center Jeff Hartung and inside linebacker James Farrior. Faneca made it for the third time, Hartung and Farrior were among 17 first-time AP Pros.

Philadelphia also had three members: wide receiver Terrell Owens, making it for the fourth time; safety Brian Dawkins (third time) and cornerback Lito Sheppard (first).

Although Minnesota's defense struggled this year, it had a prime player in tackle Kevin Williams, also a new AP Pro. "He's just an elite player," Vikings coach Mike Tice said. "Kevin makes a lot of plays, and in big games he seems to play better."

Also among players making an AP Pro debut was 31-year-old Curtis Martin, who won his first rushing title this season. Martin, of the New York Jets, has rushed for at least 1,000 yards in all 10 of his NFL seasons, tying the record of Hall of Famer Barry Sanders.

He was joined in the backfield by LaDainian Tomlinson of San Diego, also a first-time. So was

Manning tops All-Pro Team

Peyton Manning was the only player to sweep The Associated Press 2004 NFL All-Pro Team voting this year, Manning threw for 49 touchdowns, breaking Dan Marino's record, and had a passer rating of 121.1.

Offense

Wide Receivers

Terrell Owens, Philadelphia;
Munir Muhammad, Carolina

Tackles

Kevin Williams, Minnesota;
Richard Seymour, New England

Inside Linebackers

James Farrior, Pittsburgh; Ray Lewis, Baltimore

Outside Linebackers

Takeo Spikes, Buffalo; Derrick Brooks, Tampa Bay

Cornerbacks

Ronde Barber, Tampa Bay; Champ Bailey, Denver; Lito Sheppard, Philadelphia

Safeties

Ed Reed, Baltimore; Brian Dawkins, Philadelphia

Fullback

William Henderson, Green Bay

Specialists

Shane Lechler, Oakland - Punter
Adam Vinatieri, New England - Kicker
Eddie Drummond, Detroit - Kick Returner

Tomlinson's teammate, tight end Antonio Gates, a 2003 undrafted rookie who helped spark the Chargers' turnaround season.

Another 10-year veteran, Packers fullback William Henderson,

Defense

Dwight Freeney, Indianapolis;
Julius Peppers, Carolina

Tackles

Kevin Williams, Minnesota; Richard Seymour, New England

Inside Linebackers

James Farrior, Pittsburgh; Ray Lewis, Baltimore

Outside Linebackers

Takeo Spikes, Buffalo; Derrick Brooks, Tampa Bay

Cornerbacks

Ronde Barber, Tampa Bay; Champ Bailey, Denver; Lito Sheppard, Philadelphia

Safeties

Ed Reed, Baltimore; Brian Dawkins, Philadelphia



was nothing I was expecting," he said.

"I'm a grunt worker, that's the way I look at it. That's what I do and I accepted that role a long time ago. I'm not expecting to get any accolades when I go out there."

Baltimore inside linebacker Ray Lewis made the team for the fifth time, the most among 2004 AP Pros. Tampa Bay outside LB Derrick Brooks made it for the fourth time, as did Oakland punter Shane Lechler and Kansas City tackle William Roaf.

Repetitions from 2003 were Manning, Lewis, Roaf, Lechler and New England defensive tackle Richard Seymour — all AFC players.

"It's just a blessing," Seymour said. "When I came into the National Football League, I really didn't know how good I was going to be. I just to come here and be considered one of the best, it's humbling."

Kick returner Eddie Drummond made it even though he missed the final month with a shoulder injury. That shows how much impact he had for the Lions before being sidelined: Drummond finished first in the NFL in punt returns (13.2-yard average) and second in kickoff returns (26.6 average). He returned two of each for touchdowns.

In a loss to Jacksonville, he returned two punts for touchdowns in the fourth quarter and finished with six punt returns for 199 yards.

Vilma Reed awarded AP defensive honors

The Associated Press

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — Jonathan Vilma finished working out at the University of Miami one year later spring when he spotted fellow Hurricane alum Santana Moss.

Vilma rushed up to Moss and told him how much he wanted to play for the New AP Most Valuable Player know, the Jets wanted him, too. So they made him No. 12 overall pick in the draft. Look at Vilma now.

Conventional debut season made him The Associated Press 2004 NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year. Vilma capped the regular season with a bang, returning an interception for a touchdown and a 32-29 overtime loss to the Rams.

Vilma, who earned 21 votes from a national panel of 48 writers and broadcasters who cover pro football, came into training camp ready to win a starting job as part of a revamped Jets linebacking corps. Though defensive coordinator Donnie Henderson penciled in veteran Sam Cowart to start, Vilma competed hard for the job.

In Week 2, Cowart sprained his left knee. Instead of struggling in the middle, Vilma stepped in as if he had been the starter for years.

Pro Bowl defensive end John Abraham said Vilma made everything look so easy.

"After watching him play, a lot of people say he's already a vet," Abraham said. "He handled himself like a vet. He was far past his years when he came in here."

That has plenty to do with his college background. Vilma is just the latest in a line of stellar linebackers from Miami, following Dan Morgan, Ray Lewis and Nate Webster, among others.

Ravens safety Reed Defensive Player of the Year

NEW YORK — Ed Reed wasn't just the best defensive player on the Baltimore Ravens — no small feat with Ray Lewis as a teammate — he was the best defender in the NFL this season.

The Ravens' safety outplayed even his illustrious buddy and training partner in winning The Associated Press 2004 Defensive Player of the Year award. No one was more impressed than Lewis. "He deserves it," said the two-time winner of the honor. "He prepares like a coach. He loves to play, period. He brings joy to work. He's tough and smart."

Reed, in his third season out of the University of Miami — also Lewis' college — had a greater impact than any other defender.

He earned 20 votes from a national panel of writers and broadcasters who cover pro football,



New York Jets LB Jonathan Vilma received 21 of 48 votes to earn the AP defensive rookie award.

beating Steelers' linebacker James Farrior, who had 16. He is the first safety to win the award in 20 years.

"A lot of great players have truly achieved this award and I'm just in my third year," said Reed, who led the NFL with nine interceptions and set an NFL mark with 358 return yards on those picks. "I love football. I just want to have fun with it, and whatever else comes with it, comes with it."

Although the Ravens' (9-7) fell short of the playoffs, no one could blame Reed. He was dynamic every week, and his 106-yard interception return against Cleveland, another NFL record, was among the most memorable plays this season.

Pats pace B League on injured reserve

The Associated Press

FOXBORO, Mass. — The New England Patriots placed Ty Law on injured reserve Friday, saying

hoping that the four-time Pro Bowl cornerback could return for the playoffs after missing most of the season.

The 10-year veteran sat out the last nine games of the regular season after breaking his left foot on Oct. 31 at Pittsburgh, one of the Patriots' two losses.

"We are disappointed for Ty," Patriots coach Bill Belichick said. "He has worked extremely hard to return this season and we all hoped it would happen."

The Patriots have this weekend off after finishing the regular season 14-2 for the second straight year. The defending Super Bowl champions will play Indianapolis in the second round of the playoffs if the Colts beat Denver on Sunday. Otherwise, the winner of Saturday's game between the New York Jets and San Diego will visit Foxboro on Jan. 16.

In last year's AFC championship game, Law intercepted Indianapolis' Peyton Manning three times in the Patriots 24-14 win.

Last Oct. 17, he tied Raymond

Clayborn's team record of 36 career interceptions.

Tyrone Poole, the Patriots' starting cornerback, went on injured reserve Dec. 17.

49ers permitted to talk with Crennel; Carroll says no

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — The San Francisco 49ers received permission from New England on Thursday to interview Patriots' defensive coordinator Romeo Crennel for their coaching vacancy.

One day after firing Dennis Erickson, the 49ers set out to find his replacement. Crennel will be the first candidate to interview for the job when he meets with team officials Saturday. Crennel also is scheduled to interview with Cleveland on Friday.

Crennel has been New England's defensive coordinator since 2001, helping the team win two Super Bowl titles and go 14-2 this season.

He was interviewed in Southern California coach Pete Carroll, who won his second straight college championship this week. Carroll said Thursday that he has no interest in the job.

"I have not been contacted, I don't expect to be contacted, and I'm not interested," Carroll said.

The not-so-great outdoors

Once king of the cold-weather games, Vikings go south when mercury dips

By BOB SANSEVERE
St. Paul Pioneer Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. — What has happened to the Vikings is embarrassing, and I'm not talking about their collapse over the past 10 weeks.

Commentary

There was a time nobody wanted to play the Vikings after the temperature dipped into the 30s. Or lower. Or lower still.

The Vikings were known as the cold-weather team. A warm-weather team such as the Los Angeles Rams would have its balmy environment, touch down in the tundra, step off its plane, see its collective breath and, well, there were few touchdowns after that.

"Basically, it was mind over matter," said Bill Brown, a running back on those cold-weather Vikings teams who wore short sleeves even if it was 100 below.

OK, it never got that cold. It just seemed that way to other teams — like the Rams.

"Being from warm weather, the Rams were used to it," Brown said. "They'd be all bundled up. They didn't like the cold. You could tell that."

Today's Vikings don't like the cold either. Or play outdoors. In their past 22 games without a roof over their head, they are 2-20.

Under coach Mike Tice, they're 2-18 in outdoor stadiums and 0-5 when the temperature is 45 or lower.

Minnesota (8-8) at Green Bay (10-6)

OPENING LINE — Packers by 7.

RECORD VS. SPREAD — Vikings 7-9.

PACKERS' RECORD VS. SPREAD — Packers lead 44-42-1 over Vikings.

LAST MEETING — Packers beat Vikings 34-10 on Dec. 24 at Minnesota.

LAST POSTSEASON MEETING — First.

LAST WEEK — Vikings lost to Redskins 34-10.

VIKINGS OFFENSE — OVERALL (4).

VIKINGS DEFENSE — OVERALL (28).

PACKERS OFFENSE — OVERALL (31).

PACKERS DEFENSE — OVERALL (25).

KEY MATCHUP — Vikings' QB Kevin Williams vs. Packers' RB Adrian Green.

IN THE MEETING — Packers' QB Brett Favre vs. Vikings' QB Daunte Culpepper.

STREAKS, STATS AND NOTES — Packers won both games against Vikings this season by same score, 34-10. Both times, Packers' RB Ryan Longwell had 175 yards with no time remaining. Vikings QB Daunte Culpepper had 175 yards with 4:17 left in game. Packers' QB Brett Favre was second with 39 yards passing and was second in NFL with 39 TDs. Minnesota had only one yard passing and no touchdowns in game. Walker was first in NFL with 1,383 yards receiving. Vikings' offense averaged 10.5 yards per play, second most in league. Packers converted 47.3 percent of their downs in regular season. Last year, Packers won their first meeting each time it has played a club twice in a season and then in the playoffs (1983 and 1994 against Detroit; 1997 against Tampa Bay). Packers allowed only 10 sacks all season, tied for fewest in league. Vikings' defense had 35 sacks.

That's embarrassing. A franchise that once prided itself on playing outdoors in the bitter or snow freezes up when the mercury heads south. Since 1982, when they moved into the climate-controlled Metrodome, the Vikings are 10-24 in road games when the temperature is 45 or lower.

Bill Maas, who did color commentary for Fox TV during Sunday's Vikings-Redskins game, called the Vikings the "most southern northern team" he had ever seen. It was the best observation he made all day.

Bud Grant never let his players give in to cold when he coached the Vikings. After winter set in, his players practiced outdoors to get used to the conditions they would face in games. And during games, there were no heaters on the sideline. No gloves, either.

"In cold weather, I told them to clap on the sidelines," Grant said. "It would keep their hands warm and build confidence."

Tice has kept his players indoors to take them out for a walk-through Wednesday but decided it was too cold.

"To go out on a frozen field and practice, it doesn't make a lot of sense," he said.

Tice wants his players outside at least once this week, which is a good idea. They need to have a clue how to react and deal with winter at Lambeau Field. The forecast in Green Bay for Sunday, according to the National Weather Service, is partly cloudy with high near 31 (without the wind chill).

"I know [the ball] is going to be slick a little bit," Vikings quarterback Daunte Culpepper said. "But it's going to be slick for them, too."

The thing is, Packers quarterback Brett Favre is used to foot balls made slick by the cold. Culpepper isn't. Favre is 38-2 (including the playoffs) when the temperature at Lambeau is 34 or lower. Culpepper is 0-4 in temperatures ranging from 11 to 34.

Tice is hoping Culpepper and the Vikings, up, warm up to the conditions at Lambeau. And do what they rarely have done in cold weather since Grant coached

During the three-year tenure of coach Mike Tice, right, the Vikings are 2-15 in outdoor stadiums and 0-5 when the temperature is 45 degrees or lower. In their past 22 games outdoors, Minnesota is 2-20.



6:30 a.m. Monday
AFN-Atlantic, Pacific, Korea
AFN Radio (Okinawa, Korea)

Game time is Japan and Korea Standard. Guam is one hour ahead. Singapore and Hong Kong are one hour behind.

the team. Which is win.

"All the criticism, if you're a man, bothers you," Tice said. "Yeah, it bothers me (I'm being) if I said, 'Oh, no, that doesn't bother me. It doesn't bother me that I'm called Coach Colapase. It doesn't bother me that we're making mistakes on offense.'"

"But what we are going to do about it? That's the key, and until we do something about it, it's going to be there. That's just reality, whether I like it or not."

Here's another reality: The outcome of Sunday's game could come down to how Tice coaches. How he deals with the wind and the cold and the condition of the field and, well, you get the idea.

"In outdoor games, you need to have some coaching," Grant said. "Indoors, there's the coin toss."

Before every cold-weather game he coached, Grant would get a weather report. He wanted to know the direction the wind was expected to blow so he would know which side of the field he would have to defend in each ball.

He also had a makeshift clothes dryer plugged in behind the bench for the ball boys to warm up the game balls. His quarterback and kickers always got those balls. The opponent got the balls that were Popsicle cold.

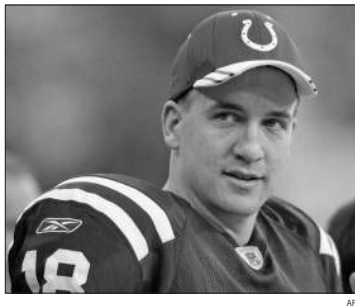
Little things such as that made Grant and his teams so successful in cold weather. Not to mention their refusal to give in to the elements.

"It's attitude," said Fred Zambertelli, the Vikings' longtime trainer who has been on the sideline for every game in franchise history. "(Vince) Lombardi said the losers always get cold."

That has been the Vikings' problem lately when they play outdoors.

They either get cold or they go cold.

And that's embarrassing.



Peyton Manning's audibles exploit matchups favorable to the Colts.

Slow-down: Broncos gear up for machine-like Manning

SLOW-DOWN, FROM BACK PAGE

Turf in the NFC Championship Game in January 2000.

The Buccaneers limited them to 11 points but still lost.

In Super Bowl XXXVII, another MVP quarterback, Rich Gannon, led another highly touted offense, the Oakland Raiders, that was deemed unstoppable. Five interceptions later, including three for touchdowns, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers were holding the Vince Lombardi Trophy.

"I think there's a tendency to think that No. 1 offenses can't be stopped, but I think if you play great defense, it's a tremendous equation," Lynch said.

■ Avoid missed assignments/tackles: The last two weeks of the regular season have showcased Denver at its relative best, though matters arguably might have been different had the Tennessee Titans' Steve McNair and Manning played more than a combined three snaps.

The Titans and Colts combined for 353 yards, 18 first downs and 30 points, helping the Broncos finish ranked fourth in total defense. But there have been games in which Denver often has looked lost — at Cincinnati, against Atlanta, late at home against Oakland and at Kansas City.

"I know we've got the talent to match up with them, that's no problem," Denver cornerback Champ Bailey said. "We've got to execute... If we're in position with the athletes that we have, there's no one that can beat us. If you get us out of position, we're just like any other defense, good or bad."

■ Confusion, plus confusions: Manning doesn't do all those pre-snap histrionics for nothing. He wants the defense to give away its alignment prematurely, then attack its weakness.

The Broncos have to mix up things without mixing up themselves.

"Whatever we do, we've just got to do it well," Bailey said. "If it's cover-2, zone blitz or man-to-man. We've just got to do it well."

The Broncos were forced to play a lot of zone coverages in last year's playoff game because of a depleted secondary.

They appear better suited to do more this time, particularly with the addition of Bailey.

"Whether we do or not, we've got to," Coyner said.

And expect the Broncos to try to get physical with the Colts receivers and attack Manning as much as possible with frequent zone blitzes.

There are other areas of concern.

Edgerrin James ran for 1,548 yards and was second in the NFL in yards from scrimmage (2,131). And tight ends Marcus Pollard and Dallas Clark are no slouches, either.

Even so, Coyner did manage a smile while discussing all the problems Indianapolis can create.

"You know what?" he said, eyes widened that in the league with 4,857 yards, "I think it's going to be fun."

Denver (10-6) at Indianapolis (12-4)

OPENING LINE — Colts by 7.

RECORD VS. SPREAD — Broncos 6-7.

COLTS' RECORD VS. SPREAD — Colts lead 9-4.

LAST MEETING — Broncos beat Colts 37-10 on Dec. 2 at Denver.

LAST POSTSEASON MEETING — Colts beat Broncos 41-10 on Jan. 4, 2004, at Indianapolis in AFC wild-card game.

LAST WEEK — Broncos beat Colts 33-16.

VIKINGS OFFENSE — OVERALL (5).

RUSH (4), PASS (6).

COLTS OFFENSE — OVERALL (4).

RUSH (4), PASS (6).

COLTS DEFENSE — OVERALL (2), RUSH (15), PASS (1).

COLTS DEFENSE — OVERALL (29), RUSH (24), PASS (3).

KEY MATCHUP — Broncos DE Reggie Hayward vs. Colts QB Peyton Manning.

Manning had one of the most dominant seasons in NFL history, setting records with 49 TD passes and a 121.1 passer rating. He played only one series week, throwing 20 passes and, as a result finished with 14 interceptions and 14 sacks. He was sacked only 13 times all season, tied for fewest in league. He tied for fewest in league. Hayward leads Broncos with 109 sacks, tied for third-most in AFC. Broncos' defense had 38 sacks. To win, Broncos must pressure Manning, something few teams have done this season.

STREAKS, STATS AND NOTES — Game 2 in 2000 in NFL playoffs. Colts (tanks) have met in playoffs next week after they are regular season opponents.

Other wins of last regular-season game has won playoff game five times.

Against common opponents, Colts were 7-7. Broncos were 5-4. Colts DE Dwight Freeney had 10 sacks in 10 games and has 40 in past three seasons. Colts RB Tatum Bell has 10 sacks in 10 games.

Brackets were minus-9. Colts WR Marvin Harrison had second in NFL with 15 TD receptions. Broncos QB Jake Plummer has 10 TD passes in 10 games this season. Only Chiefs allowed more gross yards passing than Colts (264.5 per game) did in regular season.

SPORTS



Dawn of a new golf season
carries a familiar tune
in Mercedes Championships, Page 40

Denver's slow-down tactics

**Broncos eager
to make amends
against Colts'
prolific offense**

By LEE RASIZER
Rocky Mountain News

All the pleasantries had just been handed out and Larry Coyer had more than given the Indianapolis Colts their due Wednesday.

Peyton Manning: greatest player in the game today.

The coaching staff that guides him: brilliant.

The receivers who catch Manning's passes: best in football as a group.

But as the Denver Broncos defensive coordinator kept talking to reporters flanking him, his face began to redden.

The intensity level began rising. And about six questions in, the usually serene Coyer erupted.

Enough about what the Colts' top-ranked offense is capable of doing. Instead, he wanted to chat about Denver having what it takes to slow them down in the teams' wild-card playoff matchup Sunday at the RCA Dome.

"They are what they are. They're very good. And we are what we are," Coyer said. "Now we have to go raise hell and see who wins. And we're going to raise mortal hell, OK? And we'll find out. That's all I know to say."

...All the other stuff is [expletive] and I won't listen to it. We'll see. Let's wait until the game, then make our comments."

The only statement the Broncos defense made in its playoff meeting at Indianapolis in January 2004 was that it wasn't ready for raising anything but the Colts' points total.

Manning completed 12 passes for 10 or more yards, including touchdowns of 31, 46, 23 and 87 yards. Receivers Marvin Harrison and Brandon Stokley each had 100-yard performances for the first time in playoff history. And that occurred in the first half.



Denver
Broncos at
Indianapolis
Colts

3 a.m. Monday:

AFN-Atlantic, Pacific, Korea
AFN-Radio (Okinawa, Korea)

Game time is Japan and Korea Standard.



Broncos safety John Lynch (47) lowers the boom on Colts tight end Dallas Clark during Sunday's game in Denver. Lynch, who was fined \$75,000 by the NFL for the helmet-to-helmet hit, was added to the Broncos secondary, along with Champ Bailey, after Denver was torched 41-10 in the playoffs last year in Indianapolis.

The Broncos (10-6) vow there won't be a repeat this time.

"I promise you one thing,"

Broncos defensive tackle Ellis Johnson said. "We will show up in Indianapolis to play on Sunday."

Once they arrive, how do they figure to handle the league's No. 2 offense?

There are a few ways the Broncos will enhance their chances:

■ Turn up the intensity: After Denver's playoff loss, Coyer was incredulous that the defense could be so flat emotionally.

"A whole bunch of this game is intensity," he said Wednesday.

"This is the real deal. You're one-and-done and that's the way it is until it's over. And if you ain't ready to put it all out there, we're in trouble."



Against Denver in last year's playoffs, Peyton Manning completed 22 of 26 passes for 377 yards, five TDs and no interceptions.

■ Don't fall into the hype: The Colts average 32.6 points, boast three 1,000-yard receivers and the league's likely Most Valuable Player in Manning, so they already have gotten Denver's attention.

"To look at it on paper, it's kind of like, 'Man that can't be right,'" Johnson said.

Still, it doesn't mean Indianapolis is unbeatable.

"It's just a matter of slowing them down to a point," Johnson said.

The comments the Broncos are hearing this week, that they have little chance of doing just that, are familiar to safety John Lynch.

At Tampa Bay, he played against the St. Louis Rams' high-powered "Greatest Show on

SEE SLOW-DOWN ON PAGE 47



**Chilly forecast
for the forlorn
Vikings at
Lambeau Field**

Page 47



**While Manning
sweeps voting,
trio of Eagles and
Steelers make
All-Pro team**

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**Misfiring Hamilton
makes NBA
history in a
pointed manner**

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Taegu girls improve to 6-0 in KAIAC basketball Page 45

